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Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development
Second session
28 January-8 February 2002

Contribution to the Summit from the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its seventh session

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development the contribution to the Summit from the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its seventh session (see annex), which was submitted by the Executive Secretary of the Convention pursuant to General Assembly decision 55/443.

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Annex

Marrakesh ministerial declaration

The Ministers and other heads of delegation present at the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Mindful of the objective of the Convention, as set out in article 2,

Reaffirming that economic and social development and poverty eradication are the first and overriding priorities of the developing country parties to the Convention,

Believing that addressing the many challenges of climate change will make a contribution to achieving sustainable development,

Recognizing that the World Summit on Sustainable Development provides an important opportunity for addressing the linkages between climate change and sustainable development,

1. *Note* the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its seventh session, held in Marrakesh, constituting the Marrakesh Accords, which pave the way for the timely entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol;

2. *Remain* deeply concerned that all countries, particularly developing countries, including the least developed countries and small island States, face increased risk of negative impacts of climate change;

3. *Recognize* that, in this context, the problems of poverty, land degradation, access to water and food and human health remain at the centre of global attention and that, therefore, the synergies between the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, should continue to be explored through various channels in order to achieve sustainable development;

4. *Stress* the importance of capacity-building and of developing and disseminating innovative technologies in respect of key sectors of development, particularly energy, and of investment in this regard, including through private sector involvement and market-oriented approaches, as well as supportive public policies and international cooperation;

5. *Emphasize* that climate change and its adverse impacts must be addressed through cooperation at all levels, and welcome the efforts of all parties to implement the Convention;

6. *Request* the President of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its seventh session and the Executive Secretary of the Convention to continue to participate actively in the preparatory process for the Summit and in the Summit itself, and to report thereon to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its eighth session.

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Outcomes of regional preparatory meetings

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 55/199 of 20 December 2000 on the 10-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the General Assembly decided, inter alia, to organize the review at the summit level and to call the event the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The Assembly also decided that the Commission on Sustainable Development, acting as the preparatory committee for the Summit, should undertake the comprehensive review on the basis of the results of national assessments and regional preparatory meetings, among other inputs.

2. Subsequently, at its organizational session, held from 30 April to 2 May 2001, the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development underlined the critical importance of regional preparations for the Summit.[1] The Commission acting as the preparatory committee further decided to consider at its second preparatory session results of regional preparatory meetings.[2]

3. The present note transmits in its addenda the outcomes of the regional preparatory meetings organized for Europe and North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, Western Asia, Africa, and Asia and the Pacific, as well as the outcome of the interregional preparatory meeting of small island developing States.

Notes

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 19* (A/56/19), chap. VIII, sect. B, resolution 2001/PC/1, para. 3.

[2] Ibid., decision 2001/PC/1, para. 2.

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Ministerial statement to the World Summit on Sustainable Development*

(Adopted by the Economic Commission for Europe Regional Ministerial Meeting for the Summit on 25 September 2001)

1. We, Ministers and heads of delegation of member States of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), met in Geneva on 24 and 25 September 2001 at the Regional Ministerial Meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development to review the progress made since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and to outline key policy issues, priorities and follow-up, in order to provide input to the preparatory process for the Summit, to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in September 2002.

2. We reaffirm that our region has a major role to play and responsibilities in global efforts to achieve sustainable development by concrete actions. We will take measures to develop objectives that could include specific goals and targets to confront negative environmental, economic and social impacts of present development inside and outside the region. We recognize that different levels of economic development in countries of the region may require the application of different approaches and mechanisms to implement Agenda 21.[1]

3. We support the preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development. We reaffirm the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[2] and our strong commitment to sustainable development, our support of the Rio process and our intention to strengthen the implementation of the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21 and other commitments made by the international community at Rio and at the special session of the United Nations General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, held in 1997. This should effectively contribute to achieving the agreed international development goals and targets and to meeting the commitments of the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3] by dealing with economic, social and environmental policies in a balanced and mutually reinforcing way for the benefit of present and future generations. We will promote the results of the United Nations summit conferences and processes of the past decade regarding critical social issues.

4. Since the special session of the United Nations General Assembly in 1997, we have focused our efforts on the overarching objectives of poverty eradication and sustainable production and consumption patterns. We look to the Summit to make further progress on

* Contained in the report of the Economic Commission for Europe Regional Ministerial Meeting for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (ECE/AC.22/2001/2 of 10 October 2001).

01-68656 (E) 201201

these objectives. In view of these goals, related priorities of the ECE region for the Summit will include sustainable management and conservation of natural resources, environment and health, making globalization work for sustainable development, improving governance and democratic processes at all levels, education, science and technology. Financing for sustainable development will be a crucial cross-cutting issue.

5. We call for attendance and representation at the Summit at the highest political level.

I. The Summit: priority actions on global challenges

6. The new millennium presents us with major challenges and opportunities that require enhanced international cooperation and global solutions. Technology advancement and increased economic activity have produced unprecedented changes in the world. Many have benefited as diseases have been cured, the availability of education and information has improved and economic opportunity has increased. However, in many parts of the world, severe and widespread poverty persists. People are threatened by conflict, terrorism and violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The environment and the natural resource base that support life on earth continue to deteriorate at an alarming rate. Moreover, the scourge of human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) is a worldwide challenge. All of this undermines the potential for sustainable development.

7. Addressing such challenges far exceeds the capacity of any individual State and also needs to be addressed effectively in a regional or global context. The Summit should therefore recommend effective action at all levels, taking into account the issues highlighted below. It should demonstrate the readiness of all actors — Governments and major groups — to continue to work together in a spirit of global partnership. A gender perspective should permeate the Summit process. We seek to launch in Johannesburg a concrete mechanism to carry forward our shared objectives for sustainable development. Countries in the region intend to further discuss how to deepen the dialogue for an enduring global understanding. We note the wish of the European Union (EU) and other countries to seek to achieve a "global deal".

A. Poverty eradication

8. We consider poverty eradication and economic and social development to be central to sustainable development. Better access to productive resources and effective public institutions are crucial for effective poverty eradication. Public and private investments in education, health and other basic social programmes are prerequisites of empowering the poor to integrate themselves into the market economy, and hence to contribute to and benefit from economic development. These measures are also crucial to combating HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases. Policies that promote a strong, dynamic, open and growing global economy and address environmental and social concerns and that result in widely sharing the benefits are key elements of poverty eradication and should address the needs and priorities of the poor.

9. The Summit should promote a better understanding of linkages between the environment, poverty, trade and human security so as to ensure a better integration of environmental protection and policies for poverty eradication and economic development. In the process leading up to the Johannesburg Summit, we will seek enhanced cooperation and solidarity with developing countries based on partnership and mutual responsibility for combating poverty and promoting sustainable development. We will take into account ongoing international processes in this area, in particular the process launched at the 1995 World Summit for Social Development. The international development targets as agreed in United Nations forums, in particular in the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[4] adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries on 20 May 2001, will guide our actions. As a next step, the development goals need to be further operationalized and effective monitoring systems need to be set up. We expect that the International Conference on Financing for Development will produce clear strategies and actions, both from developed and from developing countries, on the mobilization of resources for meeting the development goals.

B. Sustainable management and conservation of the natural resource base

10. We recognize that sustainable management, use and conservation of natural resources are needed to reverse current trends in unsustainable consumption and production at the national and global levels. In this regard, we encourage countries to set goals on environmental protection, and improved eco-efficiency and resource productivity with a view to demonstrating tangible results. The Summit should develop specific initiatives, building on work undertaken since Rio, in areas such as freshwater, sanitation, oceans and seas (including coral reefs), coastal zones, mountains, land use, forests, biodiversity, energy, minerals and metals, and health and environment. The Summit should encourage sustainable management, use and conservation in the full range of resource sectors, both renewable and non-renewable.

11. We recognize that natural resources are of fundamental importance for the survival of many indigenous and local communities, including their cultural survival. Many indigenous and local communities are located in areas with few economic opportunities other than those presented by local natural resources.

12. Global demands and technological progress may increase the pressure to expand the use of natural resources in remote regions, such as the Arctic. States should assess the environmental, social and economic impacts of exploiting natural resources in environmentally fragile ecosystems, taking into account the latest research on the specific circumstances in these areas. The social needs and traditional livelihoods of indigenous and local communities as well as the existence of vast areas of pristine nature will have to be taken into account. In this context, special attention needs to be given to regions subject to high environmental pressure, such as the Arctic, as well as mountainous and coastal regions.

13. We support effective solutions for the sustainable management, use and conservation of natural resources, inter alia, through programmes of action, voluntary processes and mechanisms, legal instruments and cooperation with industry designed to take into account the views and interests of relevant stakeholders.

14. We will seek to find effective solutions to serious global and regional environmental problems through international and regional legal instruments, including multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). The Summit should urge countries to strengthen their commitment to MEAs. It should urge countries to fully meet their national commitments, such as limitation and reduction targets for greenhouse gas emissions. For the large majority of countries in the region, this means seeking the entry into force of the Kyoto Protocol[5] to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[6] by 2002, with timely ratification processes, and with the broadest possible support of the international community, and welcoming the outcome of the second part of the sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention held in Bonn, Germany, in July 2001. We will promote as appropriate the development of international agreements for the sustainable use and conservation of natural resources that integrate environmental, social and economic aspects.

15. The Summit should provide new impetus to the sustainable management, conservation and use of all types of forests, inter alia, within the plan of action of the United Nations Forum on Forests[7] as well as within the forest-related conventions, including the Convention on Biological Diversity,[8] the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa.[9] We welcome international efforts to address forest law enforcement and governance, including, inter alia, illegal logging and the associated illegal trade and corruption.

16. We recognize the essential role of sound management of chemicals for sustainable development and for the protection of human health and the environment. We will strive to ratify the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade as soon as possible. For many countries, this means by 2002. Furthermore, we stress the importance of intensified global cooperation in the field of chemical safety.

C. Making globalization work for sustainable development

17. We are determined to make globalization work for sustainable development benefiting all people and especially the world's poor. We are determined to integrate the poorest countries into the global economy. In the light of the uneven distribution of foreign direct investment (FDI) both among countries and among sectors, we will encourage environmentally and socially responsible investments, particularly in the least developed countries. Trade and investment can help to create a climate of trust and liberty and the economic wealth necessary to provide the resources needed to build and sustain support for improved social conditions and environmental protection around the world. In this regard, we will work towards widely sharing the benefits of globalization while taking account of challenges to social integration, environmental quality and cultural diversity. We encourage international financial institutions to continue to integrate human rights and environmental and social concerns into their work. We support the efforts of official export credit agencies to develop environmental guidelines and encourage sustainable development strategies.

18. The international trading system, including the World Trade Organization, must play an effective role in contributing to sustainable development. In this respect, we agree to enhance the mutually supportive role of MEAs and the international trading system. We support the launching of a new round of multilateral trade negotiations at the next Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, with sustainable development as an overarching objective. Participation in a new trade round is essential for countries in transition and developing countries, given their need to stimulate their economies, eradicate poverty and promote their integration into the multilateral trading system. Enhanced capacity and technical assistance are also vital if countries in transition and developing countries are to benefit from more open markets. We support the efforts of the poorest countries to integrate into the world economy and take advantage of trade and investment-based growth. We welcome recent initiatives to remove trade distortions and to give the least developed countries duty-free and quota-free market access. We urge all developed countries to follow suit, and encourage middle-income countries to improve market access conditions for the least developed countries.

19. We welcome the Global Compact initiative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. We strongly support the business and industry sector in developing partnerships and in taking measures in the areas of corporate responsibility, economic, social and environmental accountability, and exchange of best practices and technologies through various partnerships with other sectors. In this regard, we encourage workplace partnerships between business and trade unions to facilitate the engagement and participation of workers, in which the recognition of core labour standards of the International Labour Organization (ILO) should play a central role. We welcome the Global Reporting Initiative convened by the Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Economies (CERES), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) which seeks to induce companies to present comparable sets of data on environmental and social performance, the Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and other initiatives, particularly in the field of FDI.

20. New information and communication technologies (ICT) may offer possibilities for significant reductions in the use of materials, energy and transport, and potential new directions in environmental policy design, implementation and monitoring. We recognize the possibility of using ICT in developing countries to leapfrog and avoid unsustainable products and processes. We will work to facilitate the diffusion of these technologies to close the digital divide and make them affordable and reliable, and promote information security. In the context of using ICT in support of sustainable development strategies, we acknowledge the recently established United Nations ICT Task Force and the Digital Opportunity Task Force (DOT Force) initiative by the Group of Eight (G-8) major industrialized countries.

D. Improving governance and democratic processes at all levels

21. We believe that good governance, including respect for human rights, the rule of law, democracy and combating corruption, forms part of the necessary foundation for sustainable development in all

countries. Governments should do more to ensure the enactment and enforcement of domestic frameworks, including, inter alia, an adequate regulatory and judicial infrastructure, including laws related to property, and should open up the policy-making process to have more people and organizations become involved in shaping and delivering policy. Democratic institutions, transparency and meaningful public participation in decision-making will also contribute to creating the type of society in which all people have not only the opportunity to prosper but also the responsibility for the sustainable use of the natural resources on which they depend.

22. The Summit should initiate new efforts to improve partnerships with civil society and business and industry, and other groups in seeking sustainable solutions to development challenges. The Summit should encourage regional initiatives and processes, with the participation of major groups, on public access to environmental and other information relevant to sustainable development, public participation in decision-making and access to justice, and promote the implementation of principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. Governments in other regions may wish to consider acceding to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention), otherwise establishing domestic regimes providing for public access to information, participation in decision-making and access to justice, or utilizing the ECE Sofia Guidelines on Access to Environmental Information and Public Participation in Environmental Decision-Making.

23. We stress that the commitments and responsibilities of all stakeholders should also be reflected in strategies for sustainable development to be adopted at different levels by 2002 and should go immediately into implementation. These strategies should serve as mechanisms for interlinking social, economic and environmental objectives and issues, and cover a broad range of policy instruments.

24. We call for the development and implementation of "Local Agenda 21" strategies on sustainable development. These strategies should promote innovative local solutions, supporting partnerships of local people, community and voluntary organizations, consumer organizations and women and youth groups, indigenous people(s), minority groups, and local authorities and communities together with business and trade unions, as appropriate. We will facilitate the sharing of experience with existing Local Agendas 21 and the implementation of the Habitat Agenda[10] at the local level among countries.

25. We encourage increasing efforts to integrate sustainable development considerations in the decision-making processes within international financial institutions, the World Trade Organization, development cooperation organizations and other relevant bodies. We call upon the Summit to discuss ways of improving the institutional framework for sustainable development, including the future role, mandate and programme of work of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, and to examine the corresponding role of the United Nations regional commissions in the further implementation of Agenda 21. We acknowledge that both governance on sustainable development and international environmental governance may require implementation and coordination efforts at the regional level and will need a more coherent regional institutional framework. We urge international organizations, in particular the United Nations bodies and organizations, working on environmental and sustainable development issues at regional or national levels, to extend their consultations with non-governmental organizations and other major groups. We call upon the Summit to discuss ways and means to promote compliance with, and enforcement of, MEAs.

26. There is a need to improve the effectiveness of international environmental institutions, and strengthen the coordination between them. It is important, in particular, to provide UNEP with a stable, broadened, adequate and predictable financial base. We support the work undertaken following the adoption, on 9 February 2001, by the UNEP Governing Council of decision 21/21[11] to explore ways to strengthen international environmental governance. We look forward to the final recommendations of the UNEP Governing Council at its special session as an important contribution to the Summit preparations. We will collaborate with the international community and strengthen synergies between MEAs, where opportunities exist, inter alia, in such areas as scientific linkages, reporting, compliance, public participation and assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition in implementing these agreements.

E. Financing sustainable development

27. We recognize the primary role of domestic resources, as well as the role that trade liberalization and private financial flows, notably FDI, can play in generating resources for poverty eradication and sustainable development. These three sources of capital provide by far the greatest levels of financing for sustainable development today. Incentives for environmentally and socially responsible investments, particularly in the least developed countries, should be promoted. An important way to attract and mobilize these resources is to ensure an open and stable enabling environment. A system of liberalized trade and effective and efficient legislation will help mobilize domestic and foreign enterprises and encourage responsible and beneficial investment. Environmentally damaging subsidies should be reduced.

28. Discussions on financing sustainable development should build on deliberations taking place within the context of the United Nations Conference on Financing for Development. In order to mobilize resources and reach the international development targets agreed in United Nations forums, innovative sources of financing should be explored in cooperation with business and industry representatives. Financial and technical assistance will remain important for the promotion of sustainable development in developing countries and countries in transition. International assistance flows, including debt relief and official development assistance (ODA), should supplement domestic and private efforts towards sustainable development. They should help developing countries and countries in transition to build and develop the framework that they need to attract the sources of capital necessary for sustainable development. We encourage the international community to take the necessary action to reverse the downward trend in ODA. Most countries in the region agree that the international community should strive to reach the accepted United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) as soon as possible. In this regard, we welcome the recent outcome of the Gothenburg European Council, at which EU reaffirmed its commitment to reaching this target as soon as possible and to achieving concrete progress towards reaching this target before the Johannesburg Summit in 2002. We look forward to a substantial third replenishment of the financial resources of the Global Environment Facility, taking into account its role as a principal multilateral financial mechanism for the global environment.

29. ODA should take into account the extent of poverty in a recipient country, the commitment shown by Governments towards the goal of poverty eradication and the extent to which policies are directed at this goal. Donors should further improve the coordination of their assistance to developing countries and countries in transition in order to ensure the effective use of limited resources in close cooperation with these countries. A move from a project-focused approach to programme support should be encouraged if the institutional capacities of the recipient countries allow.

F. Education, science and technology for decision-making

30. We are deeply committed to enhancing scientific knowledge and to improving the processes of generating, sharing and using science for sustainable development both within the scientific community and among scientists, policy makers and the general public for more action-oriented interdisciplinary research with greater focus on the prevention and early identification of emerging problems and opportunities. The rapid development and all-pervasive presence of digital technology in the economy and society will call for special attention. The Summit should consider how to ensure that science, technology and traditional knowledge are incorporated into decision-making for sustainable development at all levels, and how relevant knowledge can be made available to developing countries and countries in transition. The Summit should address the precautionary approach, which is set forth in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and underlies a number of relevant multilateral agreements, in decision-making for sustainable development. We will expand scientific and technological cooperation to address new and emerging risks and challenges to human health and the environment, and promote broader technology transfer and capacity-building.

31. We agree to improve education systems and the design of learning programmes on sustainable development to increase the general understanding of how to implement and promote sustainable development in practice. This should include initiatives in fields such as education, science and partnerships

with business and industry and non-governmental stakeholders, and give special attention to curricula related to sustainable development. Education for sustainable development should encourage the development by individuals of a sense of individual and collective responsibility, and thereby changes in behaviour, where needed.

II. The Summit: Priority actions for the ECE region

32. We welcome the regional assessment report (ECE/AC.22/2001/3) on progress made in the implementation of Agenda 21, which has highlighted the diversity in our region and underscored major problems on the road to sustainable development in the region. Among the important issues, we highlight the following:

(a) The movement towards less resource-intensive and polluting industries, a growth in service sectors, and progress in eco-efficiency and cleaner production processes has resulted in less pollution and waste per unit of product produced and consumed in developed countries. However, in the region, total increases in production and consumption and growing road and air transport have resulted in increased environmental impacts and continued pressures on natural resources and ecosystems;

(b) Air and water pollution and land degradation are major environmental problems in the region. Climate change is beginning to have an impact, particularly in colder areas, and desertification is a continuing concern. Increasing pressures on ecosystems and natural resources and the loss of biodiversity are high concerns in the region. Chemical and bacteriological pollution undermines the health of people in parts of the region;

(c) Despite strong overall economic growth in the region, disparities in economic and social welfare, including unemployment and social exclusion, have increased and raise new concerns in some subregions, with several countries of south-eastern and eastern Europe and newly independent States experiencing sharp declines in living standards and widespread poverty and accompanying insecurity.

33. We take note of the conclusions on sustainable development of the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting of May 2001, the EU Strategy for Sustainable Development presented to the Gothenburg European Council in June 2001 and the results of other international meetings on sustainable development held recently in the region. We also welcome the statement of the Central Asian Countries' Ministers of Economy, Finances and Environment Protection (Almaty, Kazakhstan, 20 September 2001) and their commitment to mutual cooperation. We note their desire to develop and complement the Central Asian Agenda 21 and subregional cooperation on sustainable development, and, as a priority, develop a subregional strategy for the integrated management of water resources and transboundary watercourses. We underline the importance of all preparatory activities for the Summit, including those by major groups and, in this regard, take note of the views expressed at the United Nations Round Table of Eminent Persons for the Europe and North America region, held in June 2001 in Vail, Colorado (United States of America).

34. We acknowledge that regional environmental conventions, the "Environment for Europe" conferences, the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation, the OECD and ECE environmental performance review (EPR) programmes and other ministerial processes in the region should continue to play a significant role in developing the region in a sustainable way. We will continue to support national efforts and subregional and regional cooperation on sustainable development, which should be strengthened, inter alia, through EU, ECE, OECD, UNEP, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the international financial institutions and other international organizations.

35. We also take note of the progress made in the EU enlargement process, in the cooperation among central and east European countries and the newly independent States, and in the implementation of sustainable development strategies and programmes in the Alpine, Arctic, Baltic, Barents, Black Sea, Central Asian, Mediterranean, Nordic, North American and other subregions.

36. Sustainable development must be supported by a common regional approach of cross-sectoral issues and means of implementation, including cooperation. In this regard, we reaffirm the commitments undertaken by the Environment Ministers of the region at the fourth Pan-European Conference of Environment

Ministers, forming part of the "Environment for Europe" process (Aarhus, Denmark, 1998).

37. We will strengthen or develop policies to increase social cohesion, reduce unemployment, help tackle social inequality, facilitate adjustment to economic reform, and ensure food security, respect of human rights and access to social services, such as health care, taking into account gender-specific and intergenerational aspects in all policy measures. We will seek to ensure that social development targets and the policies of indigenous and local communities are integrated into sustainable development strategies.

38. As business and industry play a huge role within the economic and social system, they also have a special responsibility for ensuring environmentally friendly production methods, products and services, taking into consideration the environmental effects at all stages of the product life-cycle. We will promote the full integration of environmental and social objectives into economic and sectoral policies, plans and programmes, and see to it that relevant policies are designed to support new opportunities for economic development and to reverse those trends that threaten health and the environment. We will strive for changes in production and consumption patterns by also promoting, as appropriate, eco-design of products, eco-labelling, and other transparent, verifiable, truthful and non-discriminatory consumer information tools. Care should be taken, however, that this does not lead to disguised trade barriers, in particular for developing countries.

39. The pressures on renewable and non-renewable resources should not exceed the carrying capacity of the environment. We will work towards the decoupling of economic growth from environmental degradation, inter alia, through the removal of trade-distorting, environmentally harmful subsidies, increased market access to environmental goods and services, the use of various policy instruments for the internalization of external costs, the promotion and widespread use of environmental management systems and eco-procurement ("green" purchasing), and effective legislation and enforcement, as well as the further promotion of renewable energy, sustainably managed resources and cleaner production. We will strive to significantly increase the share of environmentally sound renewable energy in the total domestic primary energy supply and to assist in accelerating the development of energy-efficient technologies.

40. We will make further efforts to integrate environmental and health strategies and implement agreed targets focusing on issues such as ensuring food safety and the availability of freshwater, minimizing groundwater pollution, improving waste-water treatment and sanitation systems, managing effectively the risks associated with chemicals, and ensuring nuclear safety in the region. We will address the issue of living modified organisms. We will work within existing regional processes for the integration of transport, environment and health. Where appropriate, we encourage a shift from road to rail and water and from individual to public transport.

41. We will promote the integration of biodiversity concerns into land-use planning and management, and sectoral and pollution-control policies as an essential component of sustainable development. We will establish and maintain further ecological networks in all ecosystems, in particular the Pan-European Ecological Network. We will strengthen and revise, as appropriate, the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy by 2003. We will further promote the sustainable management and conservation of forests in Europe and actively contribute to the preparation of the fourth Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (Vienna, April 2003).

42. We commit ourselves to implementing, through the relevant conventions, strategies for the sustainable management and protection of the seas of our region, especially with regard to pollution and marine biodiversity with a view to ensuring a sustainable development of the coastal zones.

43. We will strengthen our support to countries in transition in their efforts to promote economic growth, eradicate poverty and resolve environmental problems, and thus contribute to the reduction of structural causes of violent conflicts. Effective completion of structural adjustment programmes, enterprise restructuring, technological modernization, higher investments in productive sectors and infrastructure, better access to export markets and integration into the world economic and trade system, as well as substantive social reforms, are of the utmost importance for these countries if they are to achieve sustainable development. We encourage further reform of the regulatory framework and we will strengthen our support to countries with economies in transition in their efforts to strengthen good governance and democracy, including the adoption, reform and effective enforcement of legislation, the

improvement of judicial and administrative systems, the respect of human rights, and measures to combat corruption.

44. We reconfirm the importance of strategic environmental assessment for plans, programmes and policies, and we will consider health to be an integral part of this assessment. In this respect, we acknowledge the decision by the second meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context to develop a protocol to the Convention on strategic environmental assessment for adoption at the fifth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe" to be held at Kiev in 2003.[12]

45. We will promote the application of the polluter pays principle, which is set forth in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and underlies a number of relevant multilateral agreements, in decision-making for sustainable development. Each country of the region should develop a civil liability regime for damage, including environmental damage, caused by hazardous activities. We will strive to develop effective procedures and mechanisms to further prevent and resolve transboundary environmental disputes and provide redress for environmental damage. We encourage interested countries to participate in the intergovernmental negotiation process aimed at adopting a legally binding instrument on civil liability for transboundary damage caused by hazardous activities, within the scope of both the ECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes[13] and the ECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.

46. We commit ourselves to implementing and complying with all regional and subregional conventions and protocols relevant to the environment and sustainable development to which we are a party. In particular, we will work to bring into effect the Protocols on Heavy Metals and on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) to the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution[14] as soon as possible, and underline the importance of this Convention's Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone. We offer to share the experience gained in developing and implementing regional environmental agreements with other regions. We will strive to increase our support to countries in transition and developing countries for their participation in the work of MEAs. We welcome the imminent entry into force of the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, and encourage those who wish to accede to it to do so as soon as possible.

III. Review of progress

47. The Summit should also address the future review of the implementation of sustainable development at regional level. We confirm our intention to hold the next comprehensive review of progress in the implementation of priority actions identified in the present statement at the latest in 2011 at a regional ministerial meeting. Indicators for sustainable development could be very useful in this regard. We welcome the ongoing efforts of Governments, non-governmental organizations and others to develop sustainable development indicators. We also welcome the ongoing efforts of OECD to develop an agreed core set of indicators for sustainable development and look forward to the report on the progress of the process in 2002. We urge the Summit to consider the progress made in the work programme of the Commission on Sustainable Development on sustainable development indicators with a view to the further development and use of a common set of indicators.

Notes

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[2] Ibid., annex I.

[3] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[4] A/CONF.191/11.

[5] FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.3, annex.

[6] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[7] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2001, Supplement No. 22* (E/2001/42/Rev.1), part two, chap. I, sect. B, resolution 1/2, annex.

[8] See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

[10] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[11] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/56/25), annex.

[12] See ECE/MP.EIA/4, annex IX, decision II/9, para. 1.

[13] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1936, No. 33207.

[14] See ECE, *1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.II.E.24). Also United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1302, No. 21623.

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Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development
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Rio de Janeiro Platform for Action on the Road to Johannesburg, 2002*

The ministers and representatives of the Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean gathered in Rio de Janeiro on 23 and 24 October 2001 to participate in the Regional Preparatory Conference of Latin America and the Caribbean for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 2 to 11 September 2002, hereby:

A. Reaffirmation of principles and commitments

1. **Recall** the commitments made at the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Mexico City in March 1991, and at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development itself, which was held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992.

2. **Reaffirm** the principles and objectives set forth in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development; Agenda 21; the non-legally binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests; the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol; the Convention on Biological Diversity; the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa; the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants; and the Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade.

3. **Reaffirm also** the principles and objectives set forth in the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that

* As adopted at the meeting of ministers and representatives of the Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean on 23 and 24 October 2001, Rio de Janeiro.

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Deplete the Ozone Layer and the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, which have laid the foundations for the various international instruments adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and thereafter.

4. **Further reaffirm** the Declaration of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States approved in Barbados in 1994 and the subregional conventions and agreements which grew out of the Summit held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

5. **Recall also** the commitments made during the World Summit on Social Development, the International Conference on Population and Development, the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the important contribution they have made to the enhanced implementation of Agenda 21, bearing in mind the need for more effective integration of economic and social development and environmental protection strategies within the sustainable development framework.

6. **Reaffirm** the sovereign right of all States to exploit their own resources pursuant to their environmental and development policies, in accordance with principles 2 and 13 as set forth in the Rio Declaration.

7. **Reiterate** their commitment to the precautionary principle defined in the Rio Declaration as a key component of environmental policy.

8. **Reiterate also** their commitment to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, according to which the developed countries should assume a proportionally greater share of responsibility for ensuring sustainable development.

B. Obstacles and lessons learned

9. **Consider** the World Summit on Sustainable Development a unique opportunity to evaluate progress in meeting the commitments made at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. It is acknowledged that significant ground has been gained with regard to awareness raising and the codification of environmental law. Ten years later, however, the conditions for sustainable development are no better than those that prevailed in 1992. There has been a dramatic increase in the size of the world's population living in poverty, development needs are more pressing than ever, the deterioration of the environment has worsened and the rapid pace of globalization poses new challenges for sustainability and, especially, for equity.

10. **Believe** that the strengthening of democratic institutions throughout the Latin American and Caribbean region, the advances made in peace processes in some countries of the region and greater public awareness have helped to incorporate the environmental dimension into the development process and to make people-centred sustainable development the first priority of the political, economic and social programmes of the States of Latin America and the Caribbean.

11. **Recognize** the importance of the transparent and jointly responsible participation of civil society, including the main groups identified in Agenda 21, in the design, implementation and follow-up of sustainable development policies and of regional and international commitments on these matters, and that it is essential

to strengthen the cultural, educational and environmental training base that makes it possible to engage civil society in the achievement of sustainable development.

12. **Recognize also** that, 10 years after the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and given the new global events and challenges that are affecting our peoples and environment, progress needs to be made in laying the foundations for a new ethic that will serve as the cornerstone of sustainable development.

13. **Emphasize** that the persistence of unsustainable production and consumption patterns and the negative impacts of some trade and financial mechanisms, especially in the developed countries, seriously jeopardize the achievement of sustainable development throughout the world, and **reiterate** the need to increase the efforts being made to comply with the provisions of the relevant international instruments.

14. **Regret** that, although the countries of the Latin American and Caribbean region have made progress in promoting a more favourable environment for technology transfer and for new clean, energy-efficient approaches to production — together with the corresponding technical knowledge — particularly through the establishment of suitable systems for the protection of intellectual property, the developed countries have not adopted effective measures for ensuring transfers of, in particular, the most appropriate technologies in terms of environmental, social and economic sustainability.

15. **Recognize** that the viability of sustainable development in the region requires a stable, predictable, open and inclusive international economic system, in which the environmental dimension is acknowledged as an opportunity for investment and trade.

16. **Reject** any principle or policy that distorts international trade, investment or capital flows and **urge** that all export subsidies be eliminated, that market access be substantively improved and that national forms of support that distort trade or production be reduced with a view to their eventual elimination.

17. **Voice** their concern regarding the possible conditionality which developed countries could impose by linking environmental standards to the approval of official export credits.

18. **Express their concern** as to the importance of averting an abusive interpretation of the precautionary approach on the part of the industrialized countries which might lead them to use trade policy measures as a vehicle for arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or as a disguised restriction on international trade (principles 12 and 15).

19. **Recognize** the need to streamline the organizations, forums and initiatives devoted to promoting sustainable development, as well as the need to rationalize the calendar of meetings related to the sustainable development agenda, in order to ensure most efficient and effective use of resources in servicing these meetings, and **underscore** also the need to help strengthen developing countries' capacity to implement policies and fulfil commitments undertaken within those frameworks.

20. **Recognize** the importance of regional initiatives to promote sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

21. **Recognize also** the special needs of regional and subregional ecosystems, including arid and semi-arid, mountain, forest, marine, aquatic and island ecosystems, which are rich and diverse but generally fragile as well, together with the importance of ensuring their conservation, protection and sustainable use.

22. **Acknowledge and identify** with the concern of the United Nations, which, on the basis of the guidelines established in chapter 13 of Agenda 21, has declared 2002 the International Year of Mountains, bearing in mind that the importance of mountain ecosystems derives not only from their great vulnerability, but also from their role as the source of important resources for the future of humankind, such as water, energy, biological diversity, mineral resources, cultural diversity and leisure, in addition to providing a physical space for many populations.

23. **Renew also** their commitment to the Global Environment Facility and other major multilateral finance agencies, which should broaden the criteria they use in selecting issues and activities that qualify for financing with a view to addressing areas prioritized by developing countries.

C. Present considerations

24. **Believe** that extreme poverty, environmental degradation, underdevelopment, unsustainable production and consumption patterns, and the lack of equity in income distribution impact all the countries in the international community, particularly developing countries, and that it is in this light that international cooperation should be regarded as a unifying element for the efforts of the peoples and Governments of the entire world to build a common objective: to improve the living conditions of present and future generations.

25. **Reiterate** that multidimensional efforts to develop national and regional capacities should be promoted with a view to reinforcing regional and subregional cooperation schemes and meeting the needs of developing countries and the most vulnerable groups and regions.

26. **Recall** that during the special session of the United Nations General Assembly to review and appraise the implementation of Agenda 21, it was seen that globalization was manifesting itself as an uneven phenomenon that has both a positive and negative influence on all societies, that some of its negative effects — such as economic and financial instability, social exclusion and depletion of national resources — have increased since then, especially in some developing countries, and therefore **urge** that policies and measures be adopted to facilitate equitable economic development by incorporating all social actors and protecting natural resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

27. **Emphasize** that in order to further sustainable development, social, economic and environmental policies need to be integrated so that trends that threaten human beings' quality of life can be reversed before they become irreversible and so that a sharp increase in the costs for society can be avoided, and that the ongoing degradation of the environment must be stopped by means of measures designed to mitigate the negative effects of economic and social development and to ensure the existence of a sustainable bond between humankind and nature.

28. **Recognize** the need to promote wider understanding, acceptance and application of the integrative sustainable development approach, particularly among

policy makers at the local, national and regional levels, which entails, as a matter of urgency, the participatory development of the foundations for a new ethic, and **recognize also** the need to promote a culture of sustainable development among communities, civil society and the private sector through education and public awareness strategies.

29. **Highlight** the importance of ensuring that the diffusion of scientific knowledge, the promotion of research, and the development of clean technologies serve the needs of the international community, especially of the developing countries, in regard to decision-making and policy formulation for sustainable development.

30. **Recognize** that scientific research, technological innovation, and new information and communications technologies can be instrumental in the formulation of economic, social and environmental policies, and should therefore be promoted and facilitated through regional and international cooperation.

31. **Recognize also** that indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources constitute an important group for the sustainable production and consumption of goods and services, and that they should therefore participate in the design of policies and actions to achieve sustainable development; that the use and enjoyment of natural resources in the places in which they live should be approached with respect; and that their knowledge, innovations and practices should be legally protected and that continual feedback which benefits all concerned should thus be established.

32. **Recognize** that gender equality has been fundamental in advancing efforts to achieve sustainable development and that the full participation of women in policy formulation and implementation should be strengthened at the local, national, regional and global levels.

33. **Believe** that, in order to deal with the serious environmental damage and extreme poverty that persist in many countries, the actions of the international community in promoting sustainable development should be precise, efficient and effective.

D. Future commitments

The ministers and representatives of the Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean gathered in Rio de Janeiro on 23 and 24 October 2001 to participate in the Regional Preparatory Conference of Latin America and the Caribbean for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 2 to 11 September 2002, hereby decide:

1. Institutional structure for sustainable development

34. **To develop** local, national and regional capacities through a lasting strategic alliance among all development actors so that advantage can be taken at the local level of the potential of globalization through an exchange of experiences and best practices within and between countries, the promotion of formal and informal education for national and local leaders, and support for applied research and technological innovation at all levels.

35. **To promote** the reinforcement of open public and private institutions and clearly defined standards that will help all individual and collective actors to forge their own development process and strengthen institutional links among economic, social and environmental policies with the participation of the population, as set forth in Agenda 21, through national sustainable development councils.

36. **To strengthen** regional institutions in relation to the design and implementation of programmes and projects to promote the integration of economic, social and environmental policies through the organization of workshops, forums, high-level conferences and South-South cooperation programmes.

37. **To promote** more efficient ways of addressing the issue of sustainable development in multilateral forums through the use of flexible, suitable mechanisms for rationalizing efforts and the use of resources more fully and through the promotion of synergies among the relevant conventions, as set forth in Agenda 21, by national sustainable development councils, among others, in order to articulate economic, social and environmental policies with the participation of the population.

38. **To support**, in this regard, the efforts being made by the United Nations Environment Programme to examine and structure environmental policy and governance, while taking care not to impinge upon the jurisdictions or objectives of the different multilateral environmental agreements, in order to generate greater synergies among them and to assess the possible standardization and harmonization of reporting requirements and procedures for their implementation.

39. **To reaffirm** the importance of achieving greater consistency and coordination among environmental, social and economic strategies and policies and, to that end, **to invite**, among other institutions, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to continue and to increase their support for the countries to help achieve that integration and to strengthen cooperation mechanisms at the global and regional levels.

2. Financing and technology transfer

40. **To urge** the international community in general and the developed countries in particular to allocate a sufficient, predictable level of new and additional resources in order to ensure the effective implementation of Agenda 21, particularly chapters 33 and 34, and of other international agreements.

41. **To reiterate** the importance of the developed countries meeting the commitment to allocate 0.7 per cent of their GNP to cooperation for development in the rest of the world.

42. **To define** economic and fiscal incentives that effectively encourage the participation of the private sector in public schemes to promote sustainable development and correct market failures that have a negative impact on the sustainability of development.

43. **To call upon** the major contributors to redouble their efforts to ensure that the Global Environment Facility will have additional concessional funds in the future and that those resources will be allocated and administered in a more transparent, efficient and timely manner.

44. **To recognize** that the burden of debt and debt servicing faced by many countries of the region, particularly in the face of declining official development assistance and their limited ability to attract new financing and investment, have continued to undermine strategies to mobilize resources for sustainable development; **to note** with concern that debt-to-output ratios in heavily indebted countries have not seen significant improvement; and **to underscore** the need for renewed consideration of the possibility of creating mechanisms to relieve the burden of highly-indebted countries, as well as the need to increase, through the creation of new, innovative financial instruments, concessional multilateral funding for the implementation of sustainable development programmes.

45. **To recommend** that the participants in the International Conference on the Financing of Development to be held in Monterrey, Mexico, in March 2002, address the need to explore innovative and more effective mechanisms for financing the protection of national public goods that afford global benefits and that they propose means of linking the environmental dimension with countries' fiscal policies in order to effectively incorporate financial sectors into the effort to achieve sustainable development goals.

46. **To reaffirm** that developing countries can succeed in fulfilling their international commitments regarding sustainable development only if they have access to adequate financing and technology transfers, bearing in mind that the promotion of development and the eradication of poverty are the overriding priorities for developing countries.

47. **To underline** the fact that given the existing complementarities among trade, investment, environmental quality, social well-being, growth, the benefits of the sustainable use of natural resources and the formation of an open and inclusive world economic system, the environmental dimension constitutes an opportunity rather than a barrier to investment and trade.

48. **To ensure** market access for developing countries' products as an essential factor in sustainable development and **to promote** the competitiveness of developing-country goods and services that are handled and produced in a sustainable manner.

49. **To emphasize** the need to recommend at the Summit that multinational corporations adopt international principles and standards of social responsibility with regard to the environment and sustainable development, and that they set up regular mechanisms and procedures for reporting to the appropriate bodies.

50. **To call for** steps to be taken at the Summit to be held in Johannesburg to foster the establishment of effective means of facilitating technology transfer and new approaches to production under more favourable conditions, in keeping with principle 9 of the Rio Declaration, based, in particular, on the establishment by developed countries of financial mechanisms and preferential forms of tax treatment.

3. Formulation of actions

51. **To call upon** all countries that have not yet done so to ratify the Convention on Biological Diversity as soon as possible so that it can serve as a key instrument for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the

achievement of a just and equitable share of the benefits afforded by the use of genetic resources.

52. **To ensure** equitable access to the benefits afforded by the use of genetic resources through the implementation of national and international regulatory schemes for this purpose, taking into account all rights pertaining to these resources and technologies, and through appropriate financing and the transfer of relevant technologies.

53. **To foster** cooperation aimed at achieving the conservation and sustainable management of the region's natural ecosystems for the purpose of deepening world commitments to conserve biodiversity in situ and to work to establish sustainable development plans in those ecosystems which incorporate, at the local level, the agreements that figure in all the relevant conventions and that provide for the creation and reinforcement of protected areas and biological corridors and for the promotion of sustainable production activities.

54. **To call for** the design of a strategy for the sustainable development of mountain ecosystems that promotes the comprehensive management of land, bodies of water and living resources through an ecosystemic approach to the prevention of natural disasters.

55. **To underline** the need to preserve, support and protect traditional knowledge as an important part of the efforts being made to ensure the harmonious development and use of natural resources in order to promote the achievement of sustainable development objectives.

56. **To call upon** the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme to support a participatory discussion among the various actors of Latin American and Caribbean society regarding the ethical foundation for sustainable development.

57. **To urge** the international community to continue its efforts to implement and secure the early entry into force, as universally as possible, of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, bearing in mind national constitutional procedures, with a view to ensuring that it enters into effect before the World Summit on Sustainable Development is convened.

58. **To strengthen** national and regional regulatory and institutional structures relating to biosafety.

59. **To underscore** the importance of assessing vulnerability and quantifying the progress made towards sustainable development; **to note** the lack of data and indicators that would permit such measurements; and **to stress** the need to develop a core set of data and indicators, including a vulnerability index, that will make it possible to measure progress towards sustainable development, taking into account the unique features of Caribbean countries and in keeping with Agenda 21 and the Barbados Programme of Action.

60. **To reduce** the level of vulnerability to natural disasters based on planning instruments such as ecological and economic land management; and **to promote** a culture of risk awareness to further their prevention and mitigation through educational processes and improved information and early warning systems while encouraging participation on the part of civil society.

61. **To strengthen** subregional and regional cooperation, including the participation of national and international financial sectors, particularly in monitoring systems and in improving the effectiveness of reconstruction works, with special emphasis on small island developing States.

62. **To call for** recognition of the high degree of vulnerability of the small island developing States of the Caribbean; and, consequently, **to devote greater attention** to the Barbados Programme of Action and **to channel** resources for its implementation, especially with respect to adaptation to climate change, the stewardship of marine and coastal resources, integrated waste management, the protection of water resources and an increase in their quantity and quality, and the development of sustainable forms of tourism.

63. **To establish** a regional strategy containing medium- and long-term actions to prevent and respond to emergencies deriving from El Niño.

64. **To promote** integrated basin management, with emphasis on cross-sectoral, decentralized management conducted from an ecosystemic vantage point, and a change in the culture and in the social perception of the value of water; and **to align** economic and market mechanisms with the increasing degree of scarcity by adopting indirect instruments to supplement direct regulation and achieve the effective management and conservation of water resources.

65. **To enhance** international cooperation schemes at the global, regional and subregional levels, particularly in shared ecosystems, and to increase coordination among the many different levels and actors involved in water management.

66. **To support** international cooperation for sustainable forest management, taking related economic and commercial aspects into account; and **to promote** the implementation of the plan of action formulated by the United Nations Forum on Forests.

67. **To strengthen** schemes for cooperation with indigenous and local communities embodying relevant traditional lifestyles for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity with the aim of promoting programmes and financial resources to ensure their full participation.

68. **To underscore** the need to diversify the energy supply and foster energy efficiency, to assess the potential of conventional sources and to increase the share of renewable sources and the need for greater support in this area from financial agencies in order to meet the needs of each country.

69. **To establish** long-term synergies between the region's energy policies and environmental policies in order to achieve greater energy efficiency and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote the use of clean technologies.

70. **To call upon** all the countries that have not yet done so to expedite their ratification, taking into account their national constitutional procedures, of the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change with a view to ensuring its entry into force prior to the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

71. **To promote and enhance** regional and international climate-change adaptation programmes that will further and complement national efforts and **to consider** undertaking efforts to reinforce adaptive capacities in the most vulnerable

areas, taking into account the work and decisions of conferences held by the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

72. **To promote** policies for strengthening land management as a means of contributing to the sustainable development of biodiversity.

73. **To call upon** all countries to ratify the Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants and to support the Bahia Declaration and the Priorities for Action beyond 2000 adopted by the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety in view of their significance for the solution of problems caused by chemical contamination and its effects on human health and the environment.

74. **To underscore** the importance of a healthy population for the achievement of sustainable development because of the impact of health on quality of life and productivity levels; **to emphasize** the need to devote greater attention to strengthening the health sector, including the improvement of synergy between environment and health policies; **to call upon** the international community to assist in strengthening national capacity in this area, bearing in mind the formidable challenges in this sector, notably the increasing prevalence of HIV/AIDS.

75. **To recognize** that the regional rate of population growth, together with demographic trends in the region, including the high rates of rural-urban migration, has resulted in rapid, often unplanned urbanization which increases the level of stress on natural resources, including water and energy, overburdens infrastructure for pollution control, sanitation and solid waste management, and undermines strategies for the prevention of forest destruction, soil erosion, and land degradation; and **to underscore** the need for more effective urban planning and land management with a view to improving human settlements in the region and reducing the risk of man-made disasters in the face of the extreme natural events that have occurred.

76. **To recognize and identify** the relationship between population and the environment and **to achieve** greater interaction among institutions at the national and international levels that deal with population and environmental issues; and **to promote** access to additional financial resources for activities aimed at the analysis and development of the link between the environment and population.

77. **To further** an environmentally sustainable form of urban management linked to more rational production and consumption patterns that are associated with the reduction of emissions and the generation of less waste; and **to establish** more effective mechanisms for urban planning and for augmenting waste-water treatment facilities.

78. **To emphasize** that the achievement of sustainable development and the improvement of the quality of life will require more effective integration of environmental, social and economic components of public policies, programmes and projects at the local, national, regional and international levels.

79. **To call upon** the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme to follow up on the agreements reached at this meeting and to continue to do so with respect to the global sustainable development agenda in accordance with their mandates and capabilities.

80. **To declare** that the countries and peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean regard the World Summit on Sustainable Development as a unique opportunity to evaluate the progress made at all levels in fulfilling the commitments made at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and to undertake new, effective actions aimed at full compliance with those commitments and at meeting the future challenges entailed in achieving sustainable development.

81. **To propose** that the agenda of the World Summit on Sustainable Development accord high priority to, inter alia, the cross-sectoral issues of finance, science and technology, capacity-building and vulnerability.

82. **To call upon** the international community to reaffirm its commitment and political will so that, through a renewed form of cooperation within a spirit of solidarity, and based on the recognition of a responsible, ethical relationship between human beings and nature, effective action can be taken at the local, national, regional and global levels to ensure the full implementation of existing agreements for sustainable development, as this is the best guarantee of a more just world within a context of global peace; and, in the light of these considerations, to **propose** the following central theme for the World Summit on Sustainable Development: "Towards a new globalization which ensures that development is sustainable, equitable and inclusive".

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Outcomes of regional preparatory meetings

Arab Declaration to the World Summit on Sustainable Development

The Arab Ministers responsible for development affairs, planning, and environment, meeting at the headquarters of the League of Arab States in Cairo on 24 October 2001, corresponding to 8 Sha`ban 1422 a.h., to prepare an Arab statement for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 2 to 11 September 2002,

Recalling the relevant declarations, and in particular the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm, 1972); the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992); the Declaration of Barbados, adopted at the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Bridgetown, 1994); the Arab Declaration on Environment and Development (Tunis, 1986); the Arab Declaration on Environment and Development and Future Perspectives (Cairo, 1991); the Malmö Ministerial Declaration, adopted by the Global Ministerial Environment Forum (2000); the Jeddah Declaration, adopted at the first World Forum on the Environment from an Islamic Perspective (2000); the Tehran Declaration on Environment, Religion and Culture (2001); the Abu Dhabi Declaration on the Future of Environmental Action in the Arab World (2001); and the Rabat Declaration, on investment opportunities in sustainable development in drylands (2001); and also the adoption of the Jeddah Declaration by the Organization of the Islamic Conference (Doha, November 2000); the endorsement of the Abu Dhabi Declaration by the Arab Summit Conference (Amman, March 2001); and the charging of the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment with the completion of the Arab preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development,

Having studied together the report entitled "The future of environmental action in the Arab world" (2001); the reports on global environmental perspectives (GEO reports) (2000); the report of the Arab Region Eminent Persons Thematic

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Roundtable on sustainable development (Beirut, 2001); the report of the African Roundtable of Eminent Persons (Cairo, 2001); the report of the Regional Stakeholders Roundtable in preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Bahrain, 2001); the findings and recommendations of the Arab forum on civil society (2001) and forums of industrialists (2001) and Arab parliamentarians (2001); and the Arab report on sustainable development, prepared by the Joint Secretariat (2001),

Renewing the commitment to working together, within a context of responsibility that is shared yet differs between the advanced countries and the developing countries, to achieve sustainable development,

Looking forward to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which will include a review and assessment of the implementation of Agenda 21 over the past ten years and will offer the international community another opportunity to establish concrete, implementable programmes aimed at achieving sustainable development through the adoption of the necessary measures for the fulfilment of States' commitments and pledges and the strengthening of international cooperation for taking up the challenges facing the countries of the world, especially developing countries,

Noting that, owing to the desire for effective participation in the World Summit on Sustainable Development, cooperation at the Arab level has taken place between the League of Arab States, represented by Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment, and both the United Nations Environment Programme and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, in cooperation with the relevant Arab, regional and international organizations, on the organization of regional forums for stakeholders in sustainable development, involving a review of the progress made in various fields in the implementation of Agenda 21, the listing of obstacles and challenges, the outlining of strategies, the defining of goals and priorities for joint action and the presentation of the Arab vision of the general framework of international cooperation and the machinery for achieving it,

Emphasizing that many achievements have been realized in the Arab region in the field of sustainable development, covering economic, social and environmental aspects; that those achievements, whose effects have been clearly visible in the lives of the region's inhabitants in the areas of health, education and economy, include an increase in per capita income; a higher level of community and health services; a lower illiteracy rate; a higher percentage of women in education and greater work opportunities for women; a relative decline in population growth and an increase in the average age of the population; the creation and development of environmental and development institutions; the enactment and development of legislation; capacity-building; effective participation in the implementation of regional and international conventions; enhanced regional cooperation in various domains, especially that of the Arab Free Trade Zone; the implementation, among a number of Arab countries, of projects on transport, electrical grid interconnection and natural gas; and the strengthening of the Arab ministerial councils on regional cooperation in the fields of development, economy, planning, agriculture, environment, health, information and services; and that the Arab region has witnessed promising efforts towards rationalizing the consumption of natural resources and an increasing role of the private sector, civil society and grass-roots participation,

Aware of the fact that, despite the positive results achieved, the efforts to bring about sustainable development in the Arab world are fraught with numerous obstacles, some of which have effects that are carried forward for many years, the most important being the following:

Instability in the region, resulting from the absence of peace and security and the inability of the international community to deal with the issue of Palestine and the occupied Arab territories on a basis of justice and within the framework of the relevant international resolutions;

The problem of poverty in some of the Arab countries, which is aggravated by illiteracy, population growth, unemployment, accumulated loans and the related interest and irrational exploitation of natural resources;

The continual population increase in Arab cities and towns, continued rural-urban migration, the spread of squatter settlements, the aggravation of pressures on ecosystems and on community services and utilities, air pollution and waste accumulation;

The fact that the Arab region is characterized in general by harsh climatic conditions, in particular low average rainfall as compared with the overall yearly average, higher summer temperatures and high evaporation and transpiration rates, all of which tend to produce repeated drought and increased desertification;

The limited nature and poor utilization of natural resources, including an acute shortage of water resources, water pollution, scarcity of land suitable for use in the various agricultural activities, soil degradation and an absence of non-renewable energy in some parts of the Arab world;

The weak capacities of some Arab educational and research institutions and the fact that they lag behind with respect to global scientific and technical advances, especially in terms of providing the requisites for sustainable development in the Arab world;

The fact that civil society is young in terms of experience and has not effectively participated in the formulation and implementation of sustainable development strategies and programmes;

The unsuitableness of some of the technology and expertise imported from the advanced countries for economic, social and environmental conditions in the Arab world, and the shortage of skilled national staff capable of working with that technology;

The economic embargo imposed on some Arab countries,

Cognizant of the fact that there exist many challenges as well as opportunities for overcoming difficulties, achieving sustainable development and preserving the environment in the Arab world, some of the most important of which relate to:

1. Poverty, which poses a fundamental challenge to sustainable development in the Arab world, requiring rational utilization of available resources, the creation of a suitable climate for investment both locally and regionally, the establishment of a mechanism of social solidarity at the national level, the achievement of integration among Arab States in various areas and the granting

of priority to Arab labour to help curb unemployment and the spread of poverty;

2. The steady rise in population in the Arab region in relation to available natural resources and the absence of sound human resources planning;

3. The high youth population ratio characteristic of Arab society, which, albeit a positive indicator in terms of human resources, also poses the major challenge of creating a favourable environment for education and training and suitable work opportunities;

4. Ever-increasing migration from rural to urban areas, which implies that rural areas must be accorded priority in the preparation of health, education and development programmes and attention must be paid to the creation of infrastructures and service facilities to meet the needs of Arabs living in rural areas and to halt migration to the cities;

5. Irrational use of natural resources, especially water, land and energy, which implies the need for consciousness-raising and sound management of such resources, the encouragement of sustainable production and consumption patterns and cooperation and integration among Arab countries with a view to conserving those resources and exploiting them in such a way as to bring about sustainable development;

6. Globalization and its consequences, which may limit the possibility of achieving sustainable development in the Arab region, and the need to set up the Arab region in line with its own economic and institutional conditions and create a strong Arab regional bloc based on the region's cultural, civilizational and economic constituents;

7. The creation of a strong Arabic economic entity, which means strengthening the components of the Arab common market, striving to integrate it so as to offer a large market for Arab products and strengthening the negotiating position of the Arab States with other regional associations and economic blocs, including the World Trade Organization;

8. The transfer, adaptation and mastery of modern technologies in a manner suited to economic, social and environmental conditions in the Arab States; the study of those technologies selected for import and the assessment of their applications and their possible effects; and the remedying of any drawbacks inherent in them before they begin to be applied in the region;

9. Maintenance of the cultural and religious heritage that is unique to the Arab region and its utilization to achieve sustainable development,

Declare the following:

First: Achieving sustainable development in the Arab world requires the establishment of an integrated, common Arab strategy for improving the economic, social, health and living conditions of the Arab population and preserving the environment in the Arab region that takes into account historical and present conditions in the region and anticipated future changes and world developments with a view to realizing the following objectives:

1. The achievement of peace and security on a just basis and the elimination of foci of tension and weapons of mass destruction, foremost among them nuclear weapons, from the Middle East region;

2. The curbing of poverty and unemployment;

3. The achievement of harmony between population growth rates and available natural resources;

4. The elimination of illiteracy and the development of educational methods and curricula and scientific and technical education and research to meet the needs of sustainable development;

5. Support and promotion of environmental and development institutions, fostering of human capacity-building and firm establishment of the concept of environmental citizenship;

6. Limitation of the degradation of the environment and natural resources and exertion of efforts to manage them in a sustainable manner that ensures Arab water and food security, the preservation of ecosystems and biodiversity and the control of desertification;

7. Development and integration of Arab productive sectors, application of integrated environmental management systems and clean production methods, improvement of productivity with a view to increasing the competitiveness of Arab products, strengthening of the capacity to predict industrial accidents and natural disasters and preparedness for them;

8. Promotion of the role of the private sector and civil society institutions and groups, encouragement of their participation in the establishment and implementation of sustainable development plans and strengthening of the role and status of women in society;

Second: Achieving the goals of sustainable development in the Arab world requires the formulation of Arab common action priorities, as follows:

1. Strengthening Arab cooperation and coordination with regional and international organizations and with other countries of the world, especially the Islamic countries and the Group of 77 and China, so as to have greater opportunities for negotiation at international gatherings and making efforts to gain the support of those groups for the endeavours of the Arab States towards achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the Arab region and in the world in general, based on international legitimacy;

2. Implementing integrated policies for poverty reduction, primarily by facilitating adjustment to economic reform policies, raising professional qualification and general and technical education levels, creating work opportunities for nationals of Arab countries, rationalizing and making proper use of available resources, promoting social solidarity, creating practical solutions to the debt problem and strengthening the role and participation of the private sector and civil society in the formulation and implementation of sustainable development programmes;

3. Establishing an integrated population policy and remedying the demographic imbalance between country and city;

4. Enacting binding legislation; formulating, implementing and periodically assessing integrated national and regional policies; raising the awareness of all segments of society; and implementing sound development policies that take into account the distribution and limited nature of available natural resources;

5. Applying integrated water-resource management methods, developing additional water resources such as sea-water desalination and recycling of treated waste-water and limiting water wastage;

6. Establishing economic and environmental policies that take into account the conservation, development and rational exploitation of sources of non-renewable energy and the limitation of their negative effects on human beings and the environment and encouraging the utilization of renewable energy sources on sound economic and environmental bases;

7. According greater attention to human development in the Arab region by strengthening national and regional policies that deal with human health, maternal and child welfare and the care of the elderly and persons with special needs, with a view to preserving the cohesion of the family; developing educational curricula for the various levels; providing support to scientific and technical research centres; and raising levels of qualification, culture and awareness;

8. Exerting greater and more positive efforts towards achieving integration between environmental and health strategies, especially in terms of providing safe drinking water and food, treating waste-water and solid waste, controlling or limiting the potential dangers of chemicals, various types of pollution and genetically modified substances; and achieving nuclear safety in the Arab region;

9. Encouraging investment in and attracting capital to the Arab region, bearing in mind the social, economic and environmental objectives in sectoral plans, policies and programmes; fostering new opportunities for bringing about sustainable development; and limiting adverse effects on health and the environment;

10. Updating legislation and laws, promoting the Arab Free Trade Zone, developing methods for the production and marketing of Arab products to make them more competitive on international markets and protecting the rights of small and medium-sized enterprises, including industries, trades and professions, and traditional knowledge;

11. Introducing substantial improvements in infrastructures and the institutional structure and modernizing transport and communication means to facilitate the movement of persons, capital and information so as to achieve Arab integration and consolidate a genuine partnership between the private and governmental sectors;

12. Making every effort to accede to multilateral international conventions on environment so as to serve Arab interests; promoting regional cooperation in the area of environmental conservation; helping Arab countries and other developing countries to cope with the economic and social effects of international policies and programmes for correcting and compensating for

world environmental problems in such a way as not to hamper their development programmes;

Third: Achieving sustainable development within the context of globalization, the liberation of international trade and the information revolution and strengthening cooperation among peoples on the basis of dialogue and integration between civilizations requires the creation of more opportunities for developing countries and agreement on new mechanisms of good governance based on international principles and respect for the rights of peoples to sustainable development, as set out in the Rio Declaration, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, through the following:

A. World Trade Organization

World Trade Organization efforts to realize the objectives for which it was created, i.e. the opening up of markets for countries' exports, and non-use of any impediments to diminish the competitiveness of developing countries;

B. Informatics

Efforts by the international community to facilitate access to information technology and modern communication means that will help rationalize transport and the use of resources and energy and facilitate the implementation and follow-up of sustainable development policies;

C. Governance and mechanisms for developing it

1. Efforts to strengthen the role of the League of Arab States and its various organizations and ministerial councils concerned with sustainable development and to develop their operating mechanisms with a view to enabling them to adopt an integrated approach to the implementation of sustainable development strategies and programmes;

2. Development of the institutions of environmental and development action in the Arab world and support for their activities at the national and regional levels so as to contribute to the mobilization of the various sectors of society together with the relevant Government agencies, each within its own sphere of competency, in order to ensure the sound planning and regular execution of sustainable development programmes;

3. The strengthening of partnership with the institutions of civil society and the private sector in order to broaden the decision-making base with respect to sustainable development;

4. Efforts to strengthen the role of the United Nations and its various organizations concerned with sustainable development; to develop their operating mechanisms with a view to enabling them to adopt an integrated approach to the implementation of sustainable development strategies and programmes; and to call upon them to strengthen their cooperation with the League of Arab States and its institutions;

D. Financing mechanisms within the regional framework

1. Development of existing funds in Arab and Islamic States that share in the financing of sustainable development projects;

2. The according of priority, in financing at the national level, to the execution of projects for sustainable development projects and improvement of environmental conditions;

3. Emphasis on the principles of social solidarity and support for non-governmental institutions and provision of incentives to them to contribute to sustainable development;

E. Financing mechanisms within the international framework

1. Fulfilment, by the advanced countries, of the pledge called for by the United Nations and reaffirmed by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, namely, increasing official assistance to developing countries until it reaches 0.7 per cent of the gross domestic product of the advanced countries;

2. An increase in the resources of the Global Environment Facility to match the level of official assistance to developing countries, in view of the Facility's important role as a basic financing tool for environmental and development activities; the allocation of more resources to assistance in the implementation of programmes under the relevant multilateral conventions; the granting of fair and equal opportunities to all developing countries to take advantage of the Facility; and the simplification of procedures for obtaining from it financing for sustainable development projects;

3. Encouragement of foreign direct investment to boost national financial resources and of the efforts of the private sector towards sustainable development;

4. Strengthening of the link between the secretariats of international conventions on environment and national and regional specialized organizations, so as to afford more support to sustainable development programmes in developing countries;

F. Monitoring and follow-up mechanisms

1. Creation of mechanisms for the checking, monitoring, ongoing assessment and further development of sustainable development programmes until it can be ensured that they are in conformity and that they effectively achieve their objectives;

2. Elaboration of consistent sets of indicators for measuring development towards sustainability in the Arab region and performing periodic assessments with a view to directing its course.

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Outcomes of regional preparatory meetings

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

African ministerial statement to the World Summit on Sustainable Development

(Adopted at the African Preparatory Conference for the World Summit on Sustainable Development held at Nairobi from 15 to 18 October 2001)

From Rio de Janeiro to Johannesburg

1. We, Ministers of African States, met at Nairobi, Kenya, on 17 and 18 October 2001, in the context of the African regional preparatory process for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 2 to 11 September 2002. The aim of the meeting was to assess the progress made, the constraints encountered, the areas where further efforts are needed and the new challenges confronting Africa within the framework of the implementation of Agenda 21.[1] In doing so, we took into consideration the concerns of our continent's industry, and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, trade unions and youth.

2. We are convinced that the Summit should reinvigorate the commitment of the international community to the goals of sustainable development and give effect to a new vision based on a concrete programme of action for the implementation of Agenda 21 in the next decade. To this effect, we reaffirm that poverty eradication is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development and reiterate our commitment to addressing all three components of sustainable development — namely, economic growth and development, social development and environmental protection, as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars — in a balanced way, in conformity with the fundamental principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

3. We believe that holding the Summit in Africa will provide a unique opportunity for a genuine international partnership to achieve the development goals enunciated in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[2] and in the outcome of United Nations conferences and summits held since Rio, as well as in those regional initiatives that Africa has adopted. We affirm that the achievement of those development goals

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is contingent on an enabling international environment, premised on the legitimate development priorities of developing countries, that addresses the fundamental challenges of financing for development, globalization and market access in the sectors of export of interest to them, thus reaching a comprehensive and lasting solution to their crippling external debt problems.

4. We recall that success in meeting the objectives of development and poverty eradication depends, inter alia, on good governance both within each country and at the international level, as well as on transparency in financial, monetary and trading systems. We are also committed to an open and equitable rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial system.

5. We note with concern the limited progress in the implementation of Agenda 21, which has stemmed from the lack of fulfilment by the international community of its commitments made in Rio with regard to the means of implementation, thereby hampering the achievement of sustainable development in developing countries, particularly in Africa. The implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[3] adopted at Barbados in 1994, has similarly been hampered. We reconfirm that the Johannesburg Summit should not renegotiate the outcomes of Rio but should result in a concrete programme of action with time-bound measures and well-specified sources of funding to implement them.

6. We believe that a system of monitoring contributes to the effectiveness of implementation. We therefore call upon the World Summit on Sustainable Development to establish a follow-up mechanism as an integral component of all the elements of its programme of action in terms of resource flow and implementation, and to create the system required to make this possible.

7. We emphasize that poverty, underdevelopment, marginalization, social exclusion and economic disparities are closely associated with the legacy of colonialism as well as the continued exploitation of African resources. We recognize the negative economic, social and cultural consequence thereof, which have contributed significantly to the underdevelopment of developing countries and, in particular, of Africa. We urge the Summit to reaffirm the right to development and to adopt concrete mechanisms to free the entire human race from want.

8. We recognize the important role played by civil society and the need to ensure its full participation in achieving sustainable development.

9. We note with appreciation the role of the business sector and civil society, including the youth and labour segments, in pursuit of the sustainable development agenda in line with our commitment to the multi-stakeholder dialogue. In this regard, we acknowledge their significant contributions to the preparatory process in the African region.

10. We affirm our commitment to partnership for implementing the outcomes of the Summit, mobilizing major groups and appropriately capacitating these groups to fruitfully engage in the implementation of the sustainable development agenda, perhaps in the form of the Johannesburg programme of action.

11. We invite Governments to work together with major groups to prepare concrete inputs into a programme of action.

12 We propose that the theme "People, planet, prosperity" underpin our focus on the three pillars of sustainable development, and this theme is therefore proposed as the slogan for the Johannesburg Summit.

13. We believe that the New African Initiative should be a framework for sustainable development in Africa. The Initiative, which is a pledge by African leaders, is based on a common vision and a firm and shared conviction that they have a pressing duty to eradicate poverty and to place their countries, both individually and collectively, on a path of sustained growth and development and, at the same time, of active participation in the world economy and the body politic. This programme is anchored in a determination of Africans to extricate themselves and the continent from the malaise of underdevelopment and exclusion in a globalizing world.

Achievements and constraints since Rio

14. We acknowledge that, since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, there has been increased awareness of the fragility of the African environment and its natural resources. Many countries have established and strengthened policy,

legislative and regulatory frameworks, including the ratification of regional and global environmental conventions, and the formulation and implementation of various environmental action plans.

15. We note that life expectancy in many African countries remains low despite some improvements since Rio. Indeed, in some countries life expectancy has deteriorated. While the overall literacy rate remains low, access to education has increased, especially for females, who have come to play a crucial role and are increasingly acting as agents for change for sustainable development. However, only 58 per cent of the continent's population have access to safe water.

16. We note the increased incidence of natural disasters in Africa, which have resulted in significant human, social and economic losses, thereby posing a major obstacle to the African continent's efforts to achieve sustainable development, especially in view of the region's insufficient capacities to predict, monitor, handle and mitigate natural disasters.

17. We further note that the level of food insecurity in Africa has reached a critical level, as the number of undernourished presently exceeds 200 million people, and 500 million hectares of land have been affected by soil degradation, including as much as 65 per cent of agricultural land. These unfavourable developments compound the problem of poverty in Africa, as the agricultural sector includes 70 per cent of the poor and represents 40 per cent of regional gross domestic product (GDP), thereby making the full implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa,[4] an urgent priority in the post-Johannesburg era.

18. We observe that most African economies have declined both in qualitative and in quantitative terms. The rate of GDP growth in at least half of the region has remained below 2 per cent per annum. Africa, unlike other regions of the world, continues to receive extremely low foreign private capital investment, and declining levels of official development assistance (ODA), while facing an increasing debt burden.

19. We also note that wars, civil conflicts and the proliferation of small arms, and the continued presence of landmines, have hampered the efforts of many African countries to achieve sustainable development.

Priority areas for action

Eradication of poverty

20. We observe that, while Africa is an indispensable resource base that has been serving all humanity for many centuries, poverty in Africa stands in stark contrast to the prosperity of the developed world. The process of globalization has further marginalized Africa and this has contributed to the increasing incidence of poverty in the continent. It is in this regard that the New African Initiative calls for the reversal of this abnormal situation by changing the relationship that underpins it. Achieving the poverty reduction goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration is a joint responsibility of the North and the South. It requires the adoption of a comprehensive approach that addresses key priority areas, including: the removal of obstacles preventing the access of exports from developing countries to the markets of developed countries, debt reduction/cancellation, a review of the conditionalities of the Bretton Woods institutions, promoting industrial growth especially through small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), ensuring, particularly in rural areas, access to sources of energy at affordable prices, promoting microfinance, enhancing access to basic health services, sustainable rural development, agricultural development and food security, greater access to safe water and sanitation, and reducing the vulnerability of our people to natural disasters and environmental risks, as well as access to and improved standards of education at all levels.

21. We acknowledge the abundant skills and potential that exist in Africa for the development and realization of the crafts, art and endogenous technology industry. Development of this industry will contribute to the fight against poverty. Financial, technical and organizational support could also enable this sector to make a notable contribution to sustainable development in the continent.

22. Moreover, and within the framework of the world attachment to international solidarity, the acceleration of the setting up of the necessary mechanisms of the World Solidarity Fund, whose main aim is to contribute to the eradication of poverty and the promotion of the most underprivileged areas in the world, more particularly in the poorest countries, is highly recommended.

Industrial development

23. We note with concern that national economies have a narrow industrial base and that the performance of the manufacturing sector has shown a decline over the last decade when compared with the previous decade. In general, Africa is sliding into a "deindustrialization" phase at the time when it needs to expand its manufacturing base.

24. We acknowledge the fact that African countries have considerable resources, and in all fields: mineral and oil resources, agricultural resources, fishery resources, and forestry resources, but, unfortunately, these resources are not processed in a beneficial way in Africa. This constitutes a major lost opportunity for Africa. Consequently it is urgently necessary to develop and foster industry, to make it possible to add value to our resources before they are exported. SMEs/small and medium-sized industries (SMIs) have helped many emerging and developed countries to industrialize and to develop. Today, there is an emergence of SMEs/SMIs to address this, but the lack of finance, supervision and organization prevents them from playing the real role that should fall to them in respect of initiating sustainable development in Africa, and therefore institutional support must be established and sustained.

25. We recognize the contribution of industrial development to poverty eradication and efficient natural resource management. We call upon the international community to:

- Assist in enhancing the industrial productivity and competitiveness of African industries through a combination of appropriate financing and technological support services;
- Promote the development of micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises with a special focus on agro-industry as provider of livelihood for rural communities;
- Support multilateral and regional organizations in their programmes to support industrial development in Africa.

Agriculture and food security

26. We recognize that the African continent is endowed with sufficient natural resources for food self-sufficiency. However, taking into account current levels of food production and the projected population growth in Africa, it is apparent that those levels are insufficient and will not allow the achievement of the goal of halving the number of undernourished people by 2015, as enunciated at the World Food Summit. It is imperative, therefore, to reverse the current trends of land degradation and dwindling water resources for irrigation, as well as to improve the development and dissemination of agricultural technologies within African countries, and the transfer to them of applied agricultural research and technology at affordable prices.

27. We emphasize the minimum need to double agricultural production in Africa within five years. In this respect, we resolve to increase national financing for the agricultural sector, and call upon the international financial institutions and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to substantially increase the finance provided to the agricultural sector and for the full implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and other relevant conventions.

28. While we recognize the need to enhance the availability and accessibility of food to poor households, we emphasize that Africa should not be a dumping ground for subsidized food products from developed countries, or for genetically modified food. In this connection, we call upon the developed countries to remove their agricultural subsidies and to apply the precautionary principle.

Human development

29. We acknowledge that Africa is currently straining under the burden of communicable diseases that are disabling our economies. Endemic, parasitic and infectious diseases have injured the quality and retarded the productivity of Africa's human resources. Many of these diseases have their roots in the environmental conditions under which people live, including poor environmental hygiene, inadequate access to resources, such as water and sanitation, and inadequate nutrition.

30. We recognize that the growing threat of the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) pandemic is no longer merely a health issue, but a serious threat to sustainable development. HIV/AIDS should be incorporated in overall poverty reduction/eradication, sustainable development and economic growth

strategies. At the same time, Africa is faced with an emerging epidemic of infectious diseases and diseases related to lifestyle.

31. We call for a holistic approach to health that addresses its multiple determinants (social, environmental, economic). Efforts in Africa to ensure greater access to affordable primary and secondary health care and medical technology, improve environmental and social conditions that contribute to diseases, and build appropriate capacity in local communities, are of paramount importance. To this end, we call upon the developed world to offer greater assistance in making both preventative and curative health care available to Africa. We underscore that, in the context of the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights,[5] African countries should be allowed to take all necessary measures to provide access to medicine at affordable prices and to promote public health and nutrition.

32. We emphasize the importance of empowering women in social and economic development by reinforcing their capacity in the domains of education and training, by developing revenue-generating activities through facilitating access to credit, and by ensuring their participation in the political and economic life of African countries.

33. We believe that the empowerment of women and improving their health status should be prioritized, because they have key roles in all societies with respect to healthy living conditions.

34. We emphasize that education and information dissemination are major priorities in respect of ensuring improvements in the quality of life, the eradication of poverty and placing the African continent on a path of sustainable development and growth. Human resources development and capacity-building are crucial elements of sustainable development and it is important to develop clear policies in relation to training, education and research in the region. It is essential to (a) upgrade the quality of education to enable response to the challenges of the market; (b) strengthen capacity-building as a critical component of human resource development; (c) launch literacy campaigns to cut the proportion of illiteracy to 50 per cent of the current figures, with major emphasis on women; (d) strengthen and, if need be, establish well-equipped and strongly supported specialized research and technology development institutes; and (e) promote the role of women in strategies for investing in people. In this regard, we call upon the international community to assist African countries in their need to respond to new and longer-term challenges by making education and training relevant to national needs in the context of a globalizing world. Emphasis must be placed on improving the access of girls to education and training, with the aim of enabling them to attain parity with boys.

Youth

35. We recognize that participation by young people in sustainable development is the foundation of the success of the strategy to combat poverty for the sake of the future of Africa. Young people make up half the population of Africa. However, this category of dynamic actors is characterized by an insufficiency of development factors such as education, training, health protection, professional employment, and communication. There is therefore a need, in the framework of sustainable human development, to ensure the strengthening of the skills of young people in all areas.

Trade and market access

36. We emphasize the need for the multilateral trading system to ensure that issues of development are addressed adequately and decisively. For the global economy to remain stable, there must be resource flows to developing countries, and World Trade Organization agreements can and should promote this through the following:

- Contributing to structural change in the location of production globally to enable developing countries, including least developed countries, to diversify their production and export in existing and potential areas of competitive advantage;
- Levelling the playing field by addressing concerns and imbalances in existing World Trade Organization agreements;
- Operationalizing, as a matter of priority, the special and differential treatment provisions in favour of developing countries, including providing assistance to developing countries in building their required capacities for the implementation of their commitments under various World Trade Organization agreements;

- Ensuring the universality of the World Trade Organization, as well as its transparent, non-discriminatory, equitable and predictable conduct of proceedings, and ensuring the full participation of developing countries in decision-making;

- Expediting the completion of the mandated negotiations on agriculture and services, without adding new issues, especially non-trade issues, to the agenda of multilateral negotiations.

37. We call upon developed countries to open their markets and eliminate subsidies on agriculture, textiles and other export products of interest to African countries so as to enable them to reach the poverty reduction target of the United Nations Millennium Declaration by 2015.

Financing for sustainable development

38. We note with concern that a major limitation in the implementation of Agenda 21 has been the lack of the necessary means of implementation, particularly as regards the financial commitments made in Rio. We therefore emphasize the importance of mobilizing in a coherent manner all available sources, including new and additional resources, for the financing of development, inter alia, domestic resources, foreign direct investment (FDI), debt relief and ODA. We note that the International Conference on Financing for Development, to be held in Mexico in March 2002, will consider in an integrated manner, among other items, all sources of financing for sustainable development.

Investment

39. We stress the need for increased FDI in African economies as an essential component of a sustainable long-term approach to poverty eradication. Developed countries should recognize African economic reforms towards macroeconomic stability and put adequate measures in place to mobilize more financial resources, especially private capital for African economies. Sustained efforts should be made to assist African countries in creating the necessary conditions for FDI, especially in infrastructure and production capacity.

40. We call upon the international community to support African countries in their efforts to enhance domestic investment through measures such as (a) increasing revenue mobilization, (b) reducing capital flight, (c) encouraging increased inflows of remittances from Africans living abroad and (d) improving public efficiency to increase national saving and investment.

Debt relief

41. We call for existing debt-relief measures for African countries to be evaluated appropriately, taking into account the special needs of Africa, especially those countries that have high debt burdens, including heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC). The cancellation of debt for the poorest countries should be considered so as to allow them to concentrate their resources on poverty reduction programmes. While it is recognized that the enhanced HIPC Initiative will provide relief, it is at the same time imperative that African countries be assisted in finding a lasting exit from their external debt situations.

42. Furthermore, developed countries need to commit themselves to providing more meaningful market access to the products of heavily indebted poor countries to enable them to increase their export earnings and diversify their production and export bases, and they need to provide development assistance on highly concessional terms, in order to keep the debt situation sustainable and safeguard the benefits of HIPC relief. We call upon the international community to support the African initiative that seeks to secure a negotiated agreement, to provide further debt relief for countries participating in the initiative.

Increased official development assistance (ODA)

43. We urge that ODA to Africa should be increased and that developed countries should adhere to the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP). ODA should be untied and supportive of recipient countries' objectives to enable them to take ownership of their development programmes. The New African Initiative calls for the reform of ODA to ensure that ODA flows are more effectively utilized.

Global Environment Facility (GEF)

44. We recognize the importance of GEF in financing sustainable development. In this connection, we call for an improvement in its operational procedures and project implementation, so as to make it more responsive to the needs of development in Africa, including financing the implementation of the United

Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and other multilateral environment agreements (MEAs). We call for a substantial increase in the resources of the GEF in the context of the ongoing third replenishment negotiations so as to enable it to allocate a greater share of its resources to Africa. We recognize the need to amend the GEF instrument and to review the issue of incremental cost and environmental issues of global concern during its second Assembly, to be held in China, in October 2002.

Infrastructure and sustainable human settlement

45. We affirm the importance of infrastructure development for Africa's continued socio-economic growth and development. We call upon the international community to assist African countries in their efforts to: improve access to and the affordability and reliability of infrastructure services; and attract investment in public transport and communication systems, ports, roads, schools and hospitals.

46. We reaffirm our commitment to implementing the Habitat Agenda[6] and the outcome of the twenty-fifth special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and emphasize our full support for the two global campaigns on urban governance and secure tenure. We call upon the international community to mobilize the necessary resources for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium,[7] adopted by the Assembly at its twenty-fifth special session, with respect to achieving sustainable human settlements in Africa.

Science and technology

47. We recognize that harnessing science and technology requires action in several areas, including adequate financing, promoting the culture of innovation and science in our societies and appropriately managing intellectual property rights to promote increased science and technology activities within African countries, while minimizing barriers to access to knowledge worldwide.

48. We therefore urge the international community to assist African countries in their efforts to gain access to new technologies, particularly information and communication technologies (ICT), and to create conditions for the development of indigenous technologies that are important for enhancing economic development.

Desertification and land degradation

49. We recognize that the lack of opportunities for a proportion of the people, especially in rural areas, is at the root of poor environmental management which leads to environmental degradation, including desertification and land degradation. Consequently, we commit ourselves to increasing, with the support of our development partners, campaigns for environmental information, education and communication.

50. We further recognize that the majority of people in Africa directly depend on land resources for their livelihoods. To varying degrees, however, there exist poor land management practices and, in some countries, inappropriate land tenure systems. This leads to land degradation and non-optimal use of land. We therefore reaffirm the importance of a timely and effective implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in addressing the issue of poverty deriving from land degradation. In this regard, we invite the Summit to acknowledge the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification as a sustainable development convention and to proclaim it as a prime tool in the eradication of poverty in Africa and in other regions with dry and arid lands.

51. Accordingly, we call for substantial and predictable financial resources to be made available for its implementation. We congratulate the GEF Council for its latest decision in this respect and invite its Assembly, scheduled to meet in Beijing shortly after the Summit, to open up the Facility so that it can become the financial mechanism of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.

Coastal and marine environments

52. We observe that coastal communities and some national economies, particularly small island developing States, are highly dependent on their coastal and marine resources. The integrity of coasts and oceans is under threat from unsustainable development and over-exploitation. We note the impact of climate change on coastal zones and especially on small island developing States.

53. We call for the harmonization, coordination and compliance of regional and international laws and agreements related to the seas. We reiterate our support for the protection and development of marine and coastal environments and the revitalization of the Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region and the Abidjan Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region as the two vital instruments for their protection, management and development in Africa. We recognize that this requires technology for monitoring levels of fish stocks, guarding against illegal fishing and supporting the efforts of developing countries in the area of capacity-building. The Johannesburg Summit must incorporate the outcomes of the African process for the protection and development of the marine and coastal environment, including concrete projects, programmes, resources commitments and partnerships.

Biodiversity

54. We believe that the wealth of biological diversity, including marine biodiversity, found in the region is a major resource for Africa and most of our economies are highly dependent on this resource.

55. We note the scientific and economic opportunities attached to this source of wealth and the imperative of ensuring that these opportunities directly benefit the region. We commit ourselves to developing and implementing national legislation for the protection of the rights of local communities, farmers and breeders, for the regulation of access to biological resources, and for biosafety in line with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) Model Law on Community Rights and the Control of Access to Biological Resources.

56. We are convinced that wetlands are areas of high agricultural, fishery and forestry productivity and that they are currently subject to considerable pressure from man, and we commit ourselves, with the support of our development partners, to rehabilitating them.

Forests

57. We welcome the establishment of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF), and emphasize that it should become not a forum for statements, but a vehicle for the full implementation of the International Panel on Forests (IPF)/International Forum on Forests (IFF) proposals for action regarding the sustainable management of all types of forests, including addressing the special needs of low forest cover countries. To this effect, we call for the provision by the international community of the requisite financial resources and technology transfer to developing countries, particularly in Africa. We believe that any examination of the possibility of a legally binding instrument for forests is contingent upon the realization of the above measures. We look forward to the first UNFF ministerial segment, to be held in Costa Rica in March 2002.

58. We are convinced that bush fires contribute to the reduction of forest cover and nullify afforestation efforts. We recognize, therefore, the need to initiate a large-scale campaign to combat bush fires, and to do so with the support of the GEF and other funding agencies.

Mineral resources

59. We note that mining activities contribute significantly to the economic development of many economies in our continent. The benefits arising from mineral resources will depend on how countries in the region harmonize policies and regulations on agreed minimum levels, operational practices and information on mining, in order to assist in reducing risks, and on the development of an information and capacity development framework that can also benefit small-scale miners.

Climate change and atmosphere

60. We note with concern the current impacts and potential future impacts of climate change on Africa, including the constituent small island States, particularly sea-level rise and extreme weather events such as floods and droughts. We call upon the international community to finalize agreement on the Kyoto Protocol[8] to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[9] and to operationalize the Special Climate Change Fund for developing countries, as well as the special fund for the least developed countries.

Disaster prevention

61. We stress the need to reduce the vulnerability of our countries to natural disasters and, in particular,

drought and floods in Africa. The Summit should support the strengthening of Africa's institutional capacity for assessment, prevention, preparedness and management initiatives, the establishment of early warning systems, and the promotion of public involvement and information exchange. In particular, the Summit should call for the establishment of regional and subregional institutions and networks to support the above-mentioned initiatives.

Waste

62. We note that poor waste management is a core contributor to environmental degradation, health hazards, over-exploitation and depletion of scarce resources. We call upon the international community to support the efforts of the African countries to put in place the required funding and capacity to effectively manage non-hazardous waste.

63. Of critical importance for Africa is the question of the management, comprising generation, storage, transport and transboundary movement and disposal, of hazardous waste, including radioactive waste. We call upon the international community to fully implement the relevant international and regional conventions, taking into consideration Africa's needs.

64. We call upon the developed countries, in the framework of the implementation of international agreements, to take steps to counter the export of obsolete capital goods and equipment to the developing countries, to prevent Africa from becoming the Northern countries' dumping ground for these products.

Environmentally sound management of chemical products

65. In accordance with chapter 19 of Agenda 21, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, African countries should be assisted and supported in the management of chemical products. The strengthening of the technical, financial, institutional and judicial capacities of African countries is necessary to ensure sustainable development in the agricultural and industrial sectors, which use these products, and to prevent cases of poisoning (endangering human health) and pollution and well-known nuisances.

Freshwater and sanitation

66. We observe that the majority of people in Africa still lack access to safe water and sanitation services. Consequently, the morbidity and mortality due to water-borne and water-related diseases are still very high. We emphasize that the international community should encourage cooperation among countries sharing a transboundary water resource, through the provision of financial resources and technology transfer to assist them in implementing regional cooperation projects and initiatives and in developing the quality and quantity of water resources so as to benefit all riparian States, including assisting African countries in protecting the quality of water.

67. The Summit should deliver a programme of action for the achievement of the target on access to water and sanitation services of the Millennium Assembly of the United Nations, and for the support of regional shared water initiatives.

Energy

68. We note that energy plays a critical role in facilitating development. We recognize that at least 80 per cent of the people in Africa are still dependent almost exclusively on traditional sources of energy. There is a need for access to affordable energy, especially in rural areas and for sustainable industrial development.

69. We call for support for research and development, and for clean energy technologies, efficiency of energy supply and usage, and affordable uptake of renewables. Furthermore, we call upon the Summit to deliver a deal that promotes global access to energy for sustainable development in a form that minimizes the impact on air quality.

70. We strongly call upon the Summit to revitalize the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and to provide the necessary support for its effective and timely implementation.

Support for regional cooperation and economic integration

71. We strongly call upon the Summit to endorse the provision of urgent international support to the newly established African Union. We make this call in recognition of the fact that economic ties among the

members of the subregional or regional groupings prevent disputes and tensions between them from becoming conflicts, thereby ensuring the peace and stability necessary for sustainable development.

72. We recognize that still greater policy convergence and harmonization are required if these efforts are truly to gain momentum. In this connection, we call for support for specific activities at the regional level, including cooperative projects that link two or more countries in common economic enterprise zones, common infrastructure projects, and joint tourism efforts.

Governance

73. We believe that the democratization of international governance is essential to promoting and implementing sustainable development at all levels. In this connection, we urge the Summit to reach agreement on the need for an effective governance regime for sustainable development and consider that the international preparatory process should examine this critical issue.

74. We recognize that peace, security and stability are prerequisites of sustainable development in all countries and regions of the world. In that respect, the international community should provide resources and support for mechanisms developed by African States to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts, and to satisfy the needs of refugees and displaced people and their host countries.

75. We recognize the need for an effective international environmental governance regime. We note the ongoing process in this regard and expect that its outcome will lead to meeting this objective, and will ensure the effective participation of African and other developing countries. The Summit should call for a greatly strengthened United Nations Environment Programme with a financial base that is more sustainable and predictable.

Participation of stakeholders

76. We invite the organizers of all forthcoming intergovernmental meetings held in preparation for the Summit to ensure that the agendas and organizational modalities of such meetings provide for the timely and direct involvement of major groups and the consideration of their views and proposals in such a way as to enable them to contribute effectively to the intergovernmental deliberations. In this connection, the Conference took note of the offer by the Senegalese delegation to host a youth forum in Dakar.

Johannesburg Vision

77. We call upon the Summit to agree on what we may call the "Johannesburg Vision": a practical expression of the political commitments made by the international community in the principles contained in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[10] and Agenda 21, and in the United Nations Millennium Declaration. These commitments envisage a global consensus on the eradication of poverty and global inequality. The World Summit on Sustainable Development provides a unique platform for the realization of this vision and must adopt a results-oriented programme of action with clear time frames and specific targets. For the effective achievement of this programme of action, concrete global partnerships between Governments on the one hand, and between Governments, business and civil society on the other hand, are required. We believe that through these outcomes, the Summit will provide practical meaning for the achievement of the hopes of the African Century.

Notes

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[2] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[3] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

[5] See *Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994* (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994-7).

[6] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[7] General Assembly resolution S-25/2, annex.

[8] FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.3, annex.

[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[10] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

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Multi-stakeholder dialogue segment of the second session of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Note by the Secretary-General

1. In decision 2001/PC/3,[1] adopted at its organizational session (30 April-2 May 2001, New York), the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development approved a multi-stakeholder dialogue segment as part of the programme of the first substantive (second preparatory) session of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee. The decision entitled "Arrangements for accreditation and participation in the preparatory process and in the World Summit on Sustainable Development of relevant non-governmental organizations and other major groups" provides, inter alia, for the following:

Based on the practices of the Commission on Sustainable Development, a number of multi-stakeholder dialogue segments will be organized as part of the preparatory committee meetings. Dialogue starter papers from major groups will be requested in the form of reviews of progress and future action necessary under the relevant major group chapters of Agenda 21. The planned multi-stakeholder dialogues include (sect. B, para. 6):

(a) In the early part of the second preparatory committee meeting, a two-day multi-stakeholder dialogue with representatives from all nine major groups will be organized. The focus of the dialogue will be aligned with the issues that are on the agenda of the preparatory meeting, that is, a comprehensive review and assessment of progress achieved in implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21. The purpose of this dialogue will be to provide an opportunity to representatives of major groups to share their views on the progress achieved. The outcome of this dialogue will be a Chair's summary, which will be submitted to the preparatory committee and incorporated into its records;

(b) In the early part of the fourth preparatory committee meeting, a two-day multi-stakeholder dialogue with representatives from all nine major groups will be organized. The focus of this dialogue will be aligned with the issues that are on the agenda of this meeting, that is, need for a global partnership to achieve the objectives of sustainable development, reconfirming the need for an integrated and strategically focused approach to the implementation of

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Agenda 21 and addressing the main challenges and opportunities faced by the international community in this regard. The purpose of this second dialogue will be to provide opportunities to representatives of major groups to contribute their views on future actions and priorities. The outcome of this dialogue will be a Chair's summary, which will be submitted to the preparatory committee and incorporated into its records.

2. The secretariat of the Summit has been working with a multi-stakeholder steering group composed of organizing partners from each major group sector to prepare for the dialogue segments, under the guidance of the Bureau of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee. The organizing partners are drawn from major group networks on the basis of their expertise and contributions to sustainable development, their capacity to effectively reach out to their major group community for consultations, and the credibility that they command from their communities. The list of organizing partners include the following:

- Women's Environment and Development Organization (chap. 24, women);
- Youth Coalition for the World Summit on Sustainable Development (chap. 25, children and youth);
- Commission on Sustainable Development Indigenous Peoples' Caucus and Inuit Circumpolar Conference (chap. 26, indigenous people);
- Third World Network, Environment Liaison Centre International and Danish 92 Group (chap. 27, non-governmental organizations);
- International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (chap. 28, local authorities);
- International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and the Trade Union Advisory Committee to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (chap. 29, workers and trade unions);
- International Chamber of Commerce and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (chap. 30, business and industry);
- International Council for Science and World Federation of Engineering Organisations (chap. 31, scientific and technological communities);
- International Federation of Agricultural Producers and Via Campesina (chap. 32, farmers).

3. The organizing partners were requested to carry out two main tasks in consultation with their major group community: (a) facilitating the drafting of a dialogue paper and (b) facilitating the identification of their major group's delegates to the dialogue. In identifying delegates, the organizing partners were also requested to aim for geographical and gender balance, and to attempt generation balance by including different age groups in their delegations as far as possible.

4. The dialogue papers prepared by each major group are attached to the present note as addenda 1-9. As required by decision 2001/PC/3, these papers primarily focus on progress achieved in implementing the objectives of the chapters on major groups contained in section III of Agenda 21,[2] but also attempt to establish links with other chapters as appropriate.

5. The dialogue segment at the first substantive session is scheduled from 29 to 31 January, as follows:

- 29 January 2002: a plenary meeting in the afternoon focusing on "Overall progress achieved in the implementation of Agenda 21: identifying success and failure hot spots";
- 30 January 2002: Two parallel all-day Discussion Groups focusing on:

  Discussion Group I: Progress achieved in applying integrated approaches to sectoral and cross-sectoral objectives of sustainable development;

  Discussion Group II: Progress achieved in enabling multi-stakeholder participation in sustainable development institutions and mechanisms;
- 31 January 2002: a plenary meeting in the morning focusing on "Opportunities for new implementation initiatives that respond to the identified hot spots, constraints and participatory needs".

6. By the decision of the Bureau of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee, the two plenary dialogue sessions will be moderated by the Chair of the Bureau, while the Discussion Groups will be co-moderated by the Vice-Chairs from Brazil, Czech Republic, Jamaica and Japan.

7. The Bureau of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee and the organizing partners listed above continue to work on the details of the multi-stakeholder dialogue segment of the final session of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee. A set of dialogue papers by major groups containing views and proposals on priorities, partnerships, commitments and targets will be released ahead of the fourth session of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee.

8. The multi-stakeholder processes that the Commission launched in 1998 is increasingly considered a model mechanism for increasing participation in sustainable development decision-making at all levels, as was required by Agenda 21 (chap. 23, para. 23.2). It is expected that the dialogues in the Summit and its preparatory work will become the fertile ground from which tangible partnerships emerge, significantly augmenting the global efforts to move from words to action in the next phase of work on sustainable development.

Notes

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 19* (A/56/19), chap. VIII, sect. B.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

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Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

Dialogue paper by women*

* Prepared by the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), invited by the Summit secretariat to be the organizing partner of the dialogue segment for women. The paper has been prepared in consultation with women's organizations worldwide facilitated by WEDO. The views and opinions expressed do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations.

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> We women form a significant proportion of the workforce and sustain the majority of households and communities. We are consumers and producers, and make many relevant decisions. In every corner of the world, women are change agents. Women of all ages and backgrounds show commitment, knowledge and skills to build a more sustainable society.[1]

Introduction

1. Women, who make up half of the global population,[2] are key actors in building sustainable development. Juggling multiple responsibilities in the home, at the workplace, and in the community, women have a unique knowledge of sustainability and exert a critical influence on the lives of their families, communities and societies. However, persistent gender inequalities continue to leave women without an equal voice in the decision-making processes that impact their lives and their environment.

2. The present paper evaluates progress on gender and sustainable development since the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro. It also examines women's priorities for the future as the preparatory process for the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, gets under way. It should be noted that, although they are discussed as a major group in this paper, women live in many different contexts and situations and their position differs depending on region, social status and class, age, caste and educational background; but in every society, women as a group are disadvantaged as compared with men.

I. Gender concerns at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

3. The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[3] stated clearly: "Women have a vital role in environmental management and development. Their full participation is therefore essential to achieve sustainable development" (principle 20).

4. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development was a groundbreaking conference, not only because of its agenda-setting on environment and development, but also because of its affirmation of women's critical contributions to environmental management and sustainable development. The outcomes were largely due to the extent of women's involvement in the preparatory process. Worldwide women organized national and regional forums which began to lobby to draw attention to women's concerns and priorities, and to stimulate a gender focus in the conference.

5. Prior to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, two major conferences of women's organizations had been convened in November 1991 in Miami. At the "Global Assembly on Women and the Environment: Partners in Life" organized by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and WorldWIDE Network, Inc., case studies on women and development were presented. At the World Women's Congress for a Healthy Planet, organized by the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), more than 1,500 women from 83 countries came together to formulate and adopt Women's Action Agenda 21, a blueprint for a healthy and peaceful planet in the twenty-first century. Armed with this powerful tool, women successfully lobbied for sections on gender equality in the official documents of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Agenda 21[4] and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

6. At the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development NGO Forum, daily panel discussions, workshops and informal meetings in the women's tent, *Planeta Femea*, were organized by the Brazilian women's organization Network for Human Development (REDEH). These combined efforts resulted not only in the drafting of principle 20 of the Rio Declaration, but also in the recognition of women as a major group in Agenda 21. Chapter 24 entitled "Global action for women towards sustainable and equitable development", which consists of 11 different commitments, is policy and management-oriented and contains specific recommendations to strengthen the role of women in sustainable development and to eliminate obstacles to their equal and beneficial participation, particularly in decision-making. In Agenda 21, 145 other references are made to the necessary steps to be taken, from a gender perspective.

7. The commitments in Agenda 21 on strengthening the position of women and advancing gender equality are made in the following nine areas:

- Recognition of the role of women;
- Participation of women (and women's groups);
- Women's access to and control of resources;
- Women's poverty, education and work;
- Women's health and security;
- Women's organization and empowerment for sustainable development;
- Women's rights;
- Information;
- Institutional aspects.

II. Progress since Rio?

8. The present section evaluates progress in implementing gender-related commitments in Agenda 21 since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. It is based on information from various sources — women's groups around the world, Governments and the United Nations — since no formal monitoring mechanisms are provided in Agenda 21.

9. Since 1992, gender has been an explicit part of many key United Nations conferences, specifically: the World Conference on Human Rights (Vienna, 1993); the International Conference on Population and Development (Cairo, 1994);[5] the World Summit for Social Development (Copenhagen, 1995); the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995); the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) (Istanbul, 1996); the World Food Summit (Rome, 1996); and the five-year reviews: the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development; the twenty-third special session of the Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"; and the twenty-fourth special session of the Assembly entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world".

10. Significant among these was the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, where the final document, the Platform for Action,[6] augmented the shift from a women-specific approach to a focus on gender relations. Six areas were identified in which action was needed: mainstreaming a gender perspective in sustainable development; participation of women in decision-making for sustainable development; strengthening women's capabilities; involving civil society; gender analysis and research; and empowering women economically. The strategies highlighted were gender mainstreaming, a life-cycle approach, partnerships between women and men, a human rights approach, and a holistic approach towards development.[7] The following assessment mirrors the commitment categories in Agenda 21, as listed in the introduction above.

A. Recognition of the role of women

11. Critical area K of the Beijing Platform for Action, "Women and the environment", asserts that "human beings are at the centre of concern for sustainable development", and that "women have an essential role to play in the development of sustainable and ecologically sound consumption and production patterns and approaches to natural resource management" (para. 246).

12. Since women are primarily responsible for sustaining the livelihood of their families, they play a critical role in managing the diversity of the ecosystem. In many regions around the world, women are responsible for producing the bulk of domestic food. In Africa alone, this figure is as high as 70-80 per cent. Worldwide, they make up 51 per cent of the agricultural labour force. In most societies in Africa, Latin America and Asia, the care of seeds has traditionally been in the hands of women. Women are also responsible for household consumption. This is true not only in day-to-day situations, but also during and after natural disasters and in situations of severe environmental degradation (Division for the Advancement of Women, 2001). However, women's contribution in terms of labour, skills and knowledge, and in the use and management of natural resources — including food, water and energy production — often goes unrecognized, unrecorded and undervalued.

13. Women's role in consumption has a major impact on development. In the choices that women make as

consumers they tend to consider the long-term, social and environmental implications, although this does not by definition mean that women will always make more sustainable choices.[8] While corporations and advertisement firms have clearly recognized women's role as consumers, it has yet to be recognized by institutions working towards sustainable development.

14. Since 1992, many studies have analysed the different roles and responsibilities of women and men in the use and management of natural resources. However, very few governmental institutions have integrated a gender dimension into their official environment and sustainable development policies. In cases where Governments have tried to incorporate gender, their efforts have often been ad hoc in character — for example, commissioning studies and development guidelines that are never used. Gender perspectives stand a greater chance of being integrated into individual field programmes.

15. There are indications, however, that change is on the way. A number of States have taken steps to incorporate a gender perspective in their national environmental activities and plans. In Colombia, the Ministry of Environment supports incorporating gender perspectives in the planning, management and evaluation of projects of the National Environment System. Côte d'Ivoire has developed a National Action Programme on the Environment (PNAE), which takes into consideration gender concerns, and Canada promoted the integration of gender in the texts of international sustainable development agreements.

16. Non-governmental organizations working on environment and sustainable development have tended to focus on gender for short periods of time without mainstreaming it in their overall work. Although no comparative research is available, women's organizations over the past decade appear to have paid much more attention to sustainable development. While mainstreaming sustainable development into women's organizations is usually a success, it is much more difficult to mainstream gender issues into sustainable development organizations.

B. Participation of women

> No government can claim to be democratic if half of its population is excluded from decision-making.
>
> — Kofi Annan, United Nations Secretary-General, New York, October 2000

17. Promoting women's leadership and widening women's role in decision-making are key strategies for sustainable development, since production and reproduction require the full participation and partnership of both women and men. Although a number of countries have reported progress on this front, the overall lack of gender-disaggregated data at all levels — international, national and local — does not allow for an adequate assessment of women's participation in sustainable development.

18. Women's networks were actively engaged in the 1990s cycle of United Nations conferences and summits and played an important part in monitoring the implementation of agreements, but women's participation has in many cases not been a priority. For example, the Commission on Sustainable Development stakeholder dialogues since 1998 have not included women as a distinct group. (This has changed only in the preparatory process for the World Summit on Sustainable Development.) At the local level, women are not in control of, and rarely able to participate in, decision-making structures relating to, inter alia, water, agriculture and forest systems.

19. Despite this overall assessment, there are some positive examples of women's participation in decision-making for sustainable development. In China, women constituted 38 per cent of the staff in environmental protection departments in 1997. In Tunisia, women constitute 36 per cent of the total staff of the Ministry of Environment and Regional Development, with 19 per cent occupying senior management positions. In Canada, indigenous women have been fully active in the Government's efforts to meet commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity.[9]

20. Currently, women make up 14 per cent of Governments worldwide. Of the total of government ministers, they make up just over 14 per cent, although only 9.4 per cent are in the legal areas and less than 5 per cent are in economic, political and executive positions. There are only 22 women ministers of

environment worldwide. Women are also significantly underrepresented in corporate decision-making and in trade organizations such as the World Trade Organization where there were only 12 women among the 159 trade policy experts in 1999. More recently, there have been some positive actions such as the November 2001 appointment of the first two women ever elected by the United Nations General Assembly to serve on the 55-year-old International Law Commission.

21. Participation of women in the natural (and economic) sciences remains limited. In the Pacific islands, for example, there are no women heads of meteorological services, and most other related governmental agencies — water, agriculture, fisheries, disaster management, planning and health — are headed by men. In natural disasters managing councils in the Middle East, women's participation is practically non-existent, although the number of female professional engineers, medical doctors, and service providers as well as decision makers in different governmental and non-governmental organizations in that region has increased.

22. The participation of both women and men in sustainable development policy-making brings a higher quality to planning and an important sense of ownership to projects. Sixty per cent of cities worldwide involve civil society in formal participatory processes prior to the implementation of major public projects. Engendering Local Agendas 21 has been successful in many municipalities. WEDO and the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) worked together to understand the specific roles that women play in Local Agendas 21 worldwide. Local Agenda 21 programming at municipal level represents a special opportunity to increase women's participation in sustainable development. However, few localities have made consistent efforts in this area, although WEDO/ICLEI surveys have shown that there is ample room for development of such an approach. In the 1996 survey of Local Agenda 21 projects in 2,500 municipalities, 53 per cent reported that women were included in decision-making processes.

23. The survey also found examples of cities that have proactive approaches to incorporating gender concerns. The Trinidad and Tobago Network of non-governmental organizations had developed a project called "Engendering Local Government" which trained more than 300 women in political skills, and local government representatives and administrators in gender analysis and planning. Some of these activities focused on environmental planning and concerns. The United Nations Environment and Development United Kingdom Committee (UNED-UK) has developed very useful tool kits to promote the full participation of women in sustainable development.

C. Women's access to and control of natural resources

24. Women's access to and control and management of natural resources are crucial aspects of sustainable development. Where they have access to land and resources, women play an important role in conservation. A study conducted by the Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG) showed that women living in the very fragile *charlands* (pieces of land resulting from the accretion of silt in river channels) of Bangladesh are very particular about preserving the natural vegetation, which they consider to be a valuable resource and necessary for the stability of the land. However their access to the abundant open-water fish resources, which represent a huge livelihood potential, is restricted, since fishing is considered a male occupation or the job of a low caste.

25. Women, however, are often not permitted to own land, and even in countries where women have ownership rights, huge inequities in access still exist. Case studies in the working paper "Rights of Women to the Natural Resources Land and Water", of the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1997), highlight the importance of land and water rights, and how having these rights strengthens other rights.

26. The current magnitude of land degradation poses an added threat to the livelihoods and survival of many families. Prolonged dry seasons aggravated by climate change, and clear-cutting due to agriculture development and urban settlements, create a great loss of forest and the natural green cover on which women and their families depend. Man-made small-scale natural disasters, which are occurring at a more regular rate, have a major impact on people's lives in general, but particularly increase women's workload and responsibilities. The fact that more and more people are obliged to use land and other resources that are unsuitable or of poor quality, increases the rate of

environmental degradation and further damages livelihoods.

27. In the past decade, access to water and adequate sanitation has barely kept pace with population growth, even in urban areas where low water pressure is a regular phenomenon. The impact of increasingly scarce freshwater supplies has obliged women water carriers to travel longer distances — up to eight hours per day — and spend many hours waiting to fill their pails. In many cases, girl children have to assist their mothers in fulfilling these and other related tasks, such as the necessary environmental control measures needed to deal with water-borne diseases.

28. UNEP estimates that 1.7 billion people lack access to safe water and expects this number to reach 2.3 billion by 2025 if present trends continue.[10] Polluted water is one of the most common causes of disease and death worldwide. Women are the hardest hit by limited quantities of freshwater and by poor quality water. In Latin America, women have kidnapped water officials to force authorities to provide sufficient water for the needs of their families.

29. Current processes, such as privatization of land and other resources, population pressure and the dissolution of customary land tenure, are undermining women's ability to use and conserve scarce land and water resources. Land is moved away from food production and into corporate control for large-scale industrial monocultures, tourism and shrimp cultivation. This has further marginalized and impoverished women and men farmers, and intensified food insecurity.

30. The transformation of agriculture to meet the needs of a globalized market economy is also contributing to the gradual erosion of women's biological resources and knowledge systems. Trade liberalization in agriculture and privatization of water bodies and forest resources have weakened the ability of small farmers to compete in the world market and to access critical resources such as water, fuel and fodder. Privatization also means that people have to pay high prices for the formerly free resources on which they depend. Women's access to seeds and other living resources is threatened both by patenting of life forms and by their own lack of knowledge about their intellectual property rights.

D. Women's poverty, education and work

31. Poverty eradication is both a complex and a multidimensional issue, and fundamental to promoting equality between men and women. That women still constitute 70 per cent of the 1.5 billion absolute poor, living on one dollar a day or less, results in their limited access to public services and limited access to/control over public resources, including adequate shelter.

32. In Africa, poverty levels now stand at an average of 41 per cent and as high as 51 per cent in sub-Saharan countries; between 1987 and 1998, the number of poor in South Asia increased by 10 per cent.[11] In Central and Eastern European countries, the collapse of socialist economies has contributed to the sharp rise of poverty and an increasing gap between rich and poor. China reported that the poverty-stricken population had dropped from 65 million in 1995 to 42 million in 1998, with the decrease in the number of poor women accounting for almost 60 per cent of that reduction.[12] Poor women are found disproportionately as heads of single-parent families (female-headed households) and among people of pensionable age.[13] In Canada, the poverty rates for female-headed households rose from 57.2 per cent in 1995 to 61.4 per cent in 1998, with declining employment a key factor.

33. More than 1 billion of the world's urban residents live in inadequate housing, in sprawling slums and squatter settlements in developing countries. In cities in developed countries, more than 16 per cent of all households live in poverty, while in developing countries more than 36 per cent of all households and 41 per cent of all women-headed households have an income below the locally defined poverty lines. In the North, there is a growing divide between the rich and the poor that has a distinct gender perspective — approximately 15.4 per cent of women compared with 12 per cent of men are living below the poverty line in the United States of America and 12.8 per cent of women compared with 10.6 per cent of men in Italy. The higher levels of poverty among women, despite their significant contribution to the economy, are linked to the fact that they are viewed as marginal workers and consumers, rather than as producers or managers.

34. The gender effects of economic globalization have varied among countries according to socio-economic structure and extent of integration into the world economy. These have resulted in falling fertility

rates, the rising educational attainment of women, increasing urbanization and changing family structures. Privatization, one of the engines driving economic globalization, has intensified existing gender-, class- and race-based inequalities to which poor women are subjected. Globalization increases women's multiple responsibilities in paid and unpaid work. Intergovernmental organizations have failed to formulate and evaluate trade policies from a gender perspective, thereby exacerbating women's economic inequity.

35. Generally speaking, women's employment has increased during the last two decades around the world. However, huge differences persist with respect to the quality, conditions and pay of female and male work. Governments have generally failed to integrate women's unpaid work in national accounting systems.

36. Education is an important strategy for poverty eradication. High rates of illiteracy clearly affect women's economic opportunities and civil engagement. Women constitute 65 per cent of those without basic reading skills worldwide. There are 900 million illiterates in the world and 130 million children unable to attend primary school. Illiteracy has been declining but the rates remain high in Africa, and in some parts of the world, such as South Asia, illiteracy is reportedly increasing among women. Education also has an important effect on population trends: a woman with at least seven years of education has 2.2 fewer children than a woman with no schooling. In some regions in the world, such as the Middle East, women are participating in planning, implementation and evaluation of different education projects. As a result, their knowledge of sustainable lifestyles is increasing.

E. Women's health and security

37. Women increasingly want to be involved in identifying, characterizing and solving problems impacting their lives. However, women have different and unequal opportunities for the protection, promotion and maintenance of their health. These include unequal access to basic health services, disproportionate responsibilities in the family and society, discrimination and experiences of violence and unsafe pregnancies. Women weakened by environment-related health problems are more vulnerable in pregnancy and childbirth. They are particularly vulnerable, especially in female-headed households, to environmental pollution and high prices for energy, food, and water, owing to their reproductive roles and household responsibilities.

38. Although gender differences in susceptibility to the risks of various toxic substances are still poorly understood, it is clear that these differences exist and are a particular threat to women's health. This is especially so in urban and low-income areas, which are more likely to have a high concentration of polluting industrial facilities or agricultural industries. With respect to agrochemicals, farmers seldom receive adequate information regarding occupational health and safety or the proper management of these chemicals.

39. A variety of chemicals are associated with cancer in women, pregnancy failures and childhood developmental difficulties. Cancers of the reproductive system affect growing numbers of women. Poverty and accompanying malnutrition are also associated with reproductive health problems. There has been special concern about the effects of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and endocrine disrupters on human reproduction, and development.[14]

40. In the past decade, women worldwide have organized to advance their reproductive rights. They have shown that proper prenatal and obstetric care, safe and reliable contraception, human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) prevention and care, and other aspects of health for women are inseparable from such basic amenities as reliable transportation, hygienic conditions and clean water. While these provisions are required for women's health and rights, and for stabilizing rapid population growth, the world recognizes that many other factors contribute to decisions about childbearing.

41. Recent examples of organizing by women to change government policy include the WEDO public hearings for the Action for Cancer Prevention Campaign, which gave women an opportunity to tell their stories about environmental health hazards in their communities, while laying out concrete proposals for policy changes to respond to rising cancer rates. In Argentina, the Biological Conservation Regional Economy Pilot project involved participation and input of local women in data collection related to pesticide use in tobacco production, and related birth defects and cancers; and in 1998 in Malaysia, Pesticide Action Network Asia and the Pacific (PAN-AP) and the Farm

Worker Women's Leadership Network compiled information and personal stories to document pesticide-related health problems faced by women workers.

F. Women's organization and empowerment for sustainable development

42. Worldwide, women have organized and launched countless initiatives aimed at fostering sustainable development. This paper allows for mention of only a few. In the document entitled "Women Transform the Mainstream",[15] eighteen case studies show women activists challenging industry, demanding clean water and calling for gender equality in sustainable development. Many more examples exist on women's role in forest conservation, river management, land recovery, waste control, awareness-raising and local planning, in countries ranging from the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to Uzbekistan and Uganda.

43. These cases demonstrate that not only is it necessary for women to organize but they must be empowered to do so. For example, in Guatemala, activities in a forest conservation project organized by the Foundation for Eco-development and Conservation (FUNDAECO)[16] were designed to solicit greater input from women. Early activities engaged women in drawing community resource maps, and as the community became comfortable with the process, more formal tools were used, such as community evaluation cards, to identify the most critical areas of concern to women about the environment.

44. Governments have reported on a range of activities from awareness-building to training programmes and seminars for women in natural resource management and environmental protection. Numerous reports show training as the strategy of choice for increasing women's capabilities in sustainable development. For example, the Islamic Republic of Iran organized workshops on women's participation in environmental protection in order to increase the proportion of women engaged in preserving natural resources. The Government of Jamaica, with the support of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), launched a "Trees for Tomorrow" project involving women in agroforestry extension activities; and Germany initiated a project called "Girls for an Ecological Europe", which motivates and supports girls who want to become active in the field of ecology. Costa Rica created an "International Eco-Peace Village" to train women and youth about ecological issues and sustainable development; and the Congo, Malaysia, Mali and the Republic of Moldova embarked on environmental awareness training programmes for women.

45. In several regions prone to conflicts or natural disasters, women have been empowered through the creation of a Women's Neighbourhood Team. These teams have strengthened women's capacity and also proved to be a strong tool in combating domestic violence. Elsewhere, women have been active in peace-building, for example, through the Sudanese Women's Voice for Peace, Pro-Femmes Twese Hamwe in Rwanda, the Soldiers' Mothers Committee in the Russian Federation, Saturday Women of Istanbul in Turkey, the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition, and the National Union of Guatemalan Women.

G. Women's rights

46. The basic principle of human rights affirms the dignity of every individual. Rights also empower people in the fight against poverty and for sustainable development. There is a growing recognition that protecting and promoting women's and girls' human rights not only improve their political, social and health status, but also contribute to the well-being of family, community and society.

47. However, lack of equal property rights is still a major cause of the feminization of poverty. Women own less than 1 per cent of the world's land property. Land title deeds are the main form of security used to secure loans and credit. Security of tenure is among the most important of all housing rights. The growing awareness of the relationships between human rights and sustainable development has led to a decline in human rights abuses in settlements, such as mass forced evictions. In 1996, the Government of Tunisia introduced new legislation expanding women's rights with respect to accessing housing credit.

48. At the same time, women's rights to liberty, security of person and development are unattainable without comprehensive, accessible and affordable sexual and reproductive health services and the freedom to make decisions about sexuality and fertility.

It has been recognized that human rights as well as needs, both individual and social, and specifically those of women and girls, must be at the centre of population and development policies. The human rights approach adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development and reaffirmed since then should be a guarantee that these rights and needs remain central to the way reproductive health policies, services and programmes are developed and delivered.

49. Increasingly, there is a need for clarification in respect of the Convention on Biological Diversity and conflicting international law regarding the appropriation of women's knowledge of, and control over, genetic resources. The recent interest in indigenous knowledge coincides with the growth of the biotechnology industry and a rush to develop and enforce intellectual property rights laws under the auspices of the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights[17] and other trade policy negotiations. Such regimes further undermine women's autonomy and their access to, and control over, vital resources. The Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and other intellectual property rights regimes provide no safeguard against the pirating of genetic material from indigenous and traditional societies.

50. The consequences of conflicts are enormous — for communities, the environment and society at large, especially women, children, the elderly and the disabled. Civilian victims, mostly women and children, often outnumber casualties among combatants. During the last century, the burden of armed conflict on civilian populations has increased substantially. (Civilians accounted for 5 per cent of First World War casualties, 52 per cent of Second World War casualties and approximately 90 per cent of casualties in conflicts during 1991 alone.) The after-war consequences for communities are also grave. For example, there are more than 100 million anti-personnel landmines scattered in 64 countries in the world.

51. Among the increasing numbers of refugees and involuntarily displaced persons, the majority are women, adolescent girls and children. As a result of conflicts, women often become the sole managers of households, sole parents, and caretakers for elderly or injured combatants. In the midst of conflict and collapse, the role of women in preserving social order is crucial. Notwithstanding their roles and tasks, women's priorities in countries suffering from armed violence continue to be largely marginalized. In general, violence against women in all its forms is still pervasive and underreported.

52. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[18] the most comprehensive women's human rights instrument in international law, binds countries to advance women's social, economic and political rights. Thus, it should be further developed as a mechanism to protect women's rights, including equal participation in decision-making. The monitoring mechanisms of the Convention, both the regular reporting process and the Optional Protocol thereto,[19] are important for advancing women's rights in sustainable development.

H. Information and knowledge

53. Women are producers as well as users of information. Women's indigenous knowledge and practice of environmental management increase the coping capacity of communities in environmentally fragile and hazardous areas and thus contribute to their survival. They have an inherent technological capacity: using technical skills and knowledge in their daily activities. Women's scientific knowledge, innovations and adaptations are demonstrated in many areas. Case studies have illustrated that women quickly adapt techniques, skills, organization, management and behaviour to minimize the effects of hazardous circumstances, and that they often are not confined to a single technical area or sphere of knowledge. However, the recognition and integration of this knowledge are still rare.

54. Unequal access to technologies in different geographical regions and social groups contributes to the widening of the gap between the haves and the have-nots, reinforcing the existing marginalization in development and technical resources. Women, particularly those from less developed regions and from marginalized groups, tend to be underrepresented in terms of access to these technologies. For example, the global Internet gender ratio has remained static at 63 per cent male and 37 per cent female.

55. There continues to be a general lack of gender-specific data and benchmarks to evaluate women's situation at the local and global levels and shed light on their specific concerns. Effective gender analysis does

more than assure women's participation in sustainable development; it also provides information on how resources are allocated to women *and* men, highlights constraints imposed by women's socially constructed and confined roles, and proposes women-empowering policies. There is an urgent need to engender existing environmental tools, such as the environmental impact assessment (EIA) and Geographical Information Systems (GIS).

56. The body of knowledge on gender, environment and sustainable development is still developing, and systematic analysis and knowledge about area-specific factors are rare. There is a lack of good case studies on gender roles in sustainable development, although many interesting examples exist. Several show processes of women's empowerment by information exchange, for example, use of a scorecard to track and display implementation of governmental commitments at United Nations conferences. Important efforts have also been made to allow women to utilize the Commission on Sustainable Development as a mechanism for women's communication with governmental policy makers, including the organization of dialogue sessions with delegates around gender concerns and the publication of alternative reports organized by non-governmental organizations.

57. Women's groups have been producing information as a way of keeping their Governments accountable and challenging the status quo. In Brazil, women's non-governmental organizations have used radio to disseminate gender-sensitive information and increase women's participation; and in Egypt, women working in television have conducted gender analysis of programming. Women at the grass-roots level have disseminated information widely using adaptations of the WEDO Community Report Card.

58. The development of indicators for sustainable development should include participatory dynamic and interactive processes, involving full participation of community members. There have been some innovative initiatives in that area, such as that of the Crossroads Resource Center, United States. The organization developed an approach using lay people to develop indicators for sustainable development; public round tables were held, and long-term thinking was encouraged. The current Commission on Sustainable Development indicators for sustainable development include only one gender-related indicator (ratio of female wage to male wage). In the original list however, there were some more useful gender-disaggregated indicators, which have also been developed by other development partners, such as those used in the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) *Human Development Report*. See also the biennial report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) entitled *Progress of the World's Women, 2000*; and the WEDO primer entitled "Women and Sustainable Development: A Local Agenda".

I. Institutional aspects

59. In the area of sustainable development, commitments towards a gender approach have been limited, and there is a general lack of institutional gender capacity and national machinery. Some organizations — for example, the Netherlands Committee for IUCN (the World Conservation Union) — have introduced gender training for staff. In the multi-stakeholder dialogues in preparation for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the secretariat of the Commission on Sustainable Development requires gender equality among delegations; but even so, men still far outnumber women. Such initiatives are too often ad hoc in character and therefore less likely to achieve gender balance.

60. Particularly at the local level, in some countries real efforts were made to engender sustainable development. In the Philippines, along with adopting in 1989 the Plan for Sustainable Development, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources created a Technical Working Committee on Women to respond to the needs of women. This resulted in the integration of gender in the review and modification of environmental laws. In 1999, a detailed framework for integrating gender into a national conservation strategy included training and monitoring of key staff, the development of rapid appraisal techniques and guidelines for programme planning. A key aspect was regular consultations with women's groups. The Brazilian National Council for the Rights of Women started nationwide consultations, resulting in a national plan aimed at mainstreaming gender policies in the Government as a whole.

61. Although Agenda 21 mentioned that all United Nations agencies should promote international policies

and programmes that engender sustainable development, this has not been a priority for most.

J. Obstacles and challenges

62. Major obstacles for the implementation of chapter 24 of Agenda 21 and other gender-related commitments have been:

- Lack of recognition of the role that women play in sustainable development and lack of awareness about the benefit of gender equality considerations in sustainable development policies;
- Underrepresentation of women in decision-making and absence of strategies to ensure women's participation in formulating, planning, making decisions about and implementing sustainable development;
- Predominantly male leadership of environment and sustainable development-related organizations and institutions;
- Insufficient number of women in responsible positions and underrepresentation of women in research and teaching;
- Shortage of gender-sensitivity in policies and programmes;
- Lack of gender-specific information on sustainable development;
- Low level of education, management and technical skills among women;
- Lack of women's access to resources and insufficient financial and human resources.

63. It is important to:

- Ensure the full and equal participation of women in sustainable development decision-making, starting with the World Summit on Sustainable Development process itself;
- Design and support programmes that contribute to developing the capabilities of women and men to enable women to participate fully in sustainable development policy-making and implementation;
- Mainstream gender in all sustainable development policies and programmes, and make policy makers accountable for this;
- Develop and disseminate gender-specific data and information;
- Improve the position of women living in poverty.

III. Looking forward: women identify priorities

64. The present section outlines priorities for future action on sustainable development. These priorities will receive specific attention in the document entitled "Women as a Major Group", to be submitted to the Commission acting as the preparatory committee at its fourth session, and the Women's Action Agenda for a Peaceful and Healthy Planet, 2002-2015, which is being developed by a wide group of women's organizations and networks and will be available by the end of May 2002.

A. Globalization, governance and sustainable development

65. The root causes of the striving for dominance and privilege, disregard for the needs of others, unwillingness to change, and short-sightedness are barriers to good governance and sustainable development. Existing dominance structures, which so often form the negative sides of globalization, need to be overcome. Equal participation and partnerships of all citizens, interest groups, stakeholders, creeds, cities and nations are key to good governance and gender justice.

66. Mobilization of women in different areas of representation has substantially increased with the growth of the global women's movement. However, participation of women as a distinct stakeholder group needs to be ensured, with a goal of 50/50 representation, based on a critical analysis of the gender aspects of the issues.

67. The process of globalization has given greater impetus to women's participation in the market economy, a trend that should also be stimulated and expanded. However, working women, whether formally employed or self-employed, often end up with a multitude of tasks inside and outside the home, creating working time of more than 70 hours per week.

68. Gender mainstreaming policies and procedural rules as well as gender balance needs to be integrated

into the work of all government departments, international institutions, the private sector and non-governmental organizations. In all policies and plans, effective gender analysis is a prerequisite.

B. Ensuring sustainable livelihoods: environmental and human security

69. Human security and the security of the planet are at stake. The events of 11 September 2001 in the United States illustrate world interconnectedness and the vulnerability of society as well as the destructive possibilities of technology. At the local level, securing access to and control of resources is a necessity. Human security should be a priority area for the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

70. Peace-building and peace education should be recognized as major elements of sustainable development. Women want to be appropriately involved in decisions that affect them and represented in decision-making on issues related to conflict resolution, and peace- and nation-building.

71. Natural disasters that are often man-induced, such as floods, landslides and drought, pose another threat to people's lives and livelihoods. Therefore, there needs to be much more attention given to the gender aspects of natural disasters. Here a strong partnership between the Commission on Sustainable Development and the Commission on the Status of Women is feasible.

72. Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations fail to give adequate attention to securing access to and control of good-quality resources, and related gender aspects, in policies, planning and programmes. Women's full participation in these areas at the community, professional and decision-making levels is a prerequisite of sustainable development. The United Nations Millennium Declaration[20] links gender equality to the eradication of poverty, with Governments resolving to promote gender equality and women's empowerment "to combat poverty, hunger and disease, and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable" (see para. 20 of the Millennium Declaration).

C. Sustainable production and consumption

73. Meeting the basic human needs of all the world's people is essential in order to achieve sustainable development. There is an urgent need to make production all over the world safer, cleaner and more effective, and socially accountable.

74. In general, consumers' awareness of the impacts of consumption patterns is limited, and even if people are aware of these impacts, they find it difficult to act without an enabling environment, established by government, in which producers' are held accountable for their advertising campaigns.

75. No new World Trade Organization round of multilateral trade negotiations[21] should be initiated without evaluating the impact of present trade agreements on developing countries' women and men and on the environment.

D. Human health and sustainable development

76. Women's and men's health differ in significant ways, including how they are exposed to diseases, how susceptible they are to diseases, how they are treated for diseases and what the outcomes of those diseases are. There is a marked lack of gender-focused health studies examining possible hazardous exposures. The gender-specific consequences of climate change on the health of women and children should receive special attention.

77. HIV/AIDS also affects sustainable development and the position of women. In many communities, the human capacity for development is threatened, children are orphaned and women are forced to assume an enormous caretaking role.

78. The principle of voluntary and informed choice in respect of the provision of sexual and reproductive health services should be recognized as a basic human right. The International Conference on Population and Development and the twenty-first special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Conference[22] formed important frameworks for such an approach and need further implementation in the future.

E. Biodiversity and knowledge systems

79. The world's ecosystems and its biodiversity form the backbone of people's health, security and sustainable development. There is an urgent need to develop a global peoples' consensus to fully express the rights and responsibilities of all nations and peoples towards stewardship of the Earth's biological resources. The role of women in the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources needs wide recognition, as does their knowledge of these resources.

80. The depletion of biodiversity and the pollution of its environment are a major concern of many women around the world. Genetic modification of live forms can also form a threat to original species and ecosystem health.

F. Education, information and communication

81. Education, formal and informal, is essential for sustainable development. Although enrolment in primary and secondary education has increased in almost all regions of the world, in some parts of the world access to basic education has stagnated, as Governments have reduced spending on social services. There is a challenge in respect of further closing the gender gap.

82. Analytical research, including case studies, should provide better insights into gender and sustainable development interlinkages. Gender-disaggregated data, both qualitative and quantitative, need to be made available.

Notes

[1] From statement by the Women's Caucus delivered at the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) Regional Ministerial Meeting, for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Geneva on 24 September 2001.

[2] "There are slightly fewer women than men in the world — 99 women per 100 men" (chap. 1). The regions where men outnumber women are mostly situated in Asia and Northern Africa. "Of 22 countries or areas in the world where there are 95 or fewer women per 100 men, all but one are in Asia and Oceania. The deficit of women in Southern Asia may be in part the result of some forms of discrimination against women and girls." In all other regions of the world, women outnumber men. Of the world's 1 billion adults, two thirds are women (*The World's Women, 2000: Trends and Statistics*, Social Statistics and Indicators, No. 16 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.XVII.14)).

[3] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1.

[4] Ibid., annex II.

[5] While recognizing the impossibility of sustainable development without the full participation and empowerment of women, the International Conference on Population and Development shifted the debate on population from demographic concerns and targets towards the view that well-being of women and men was at the centre of sustainable development.

[6] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[7] The obstacles for implementation of the Platform for Action were identified in the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly as follows: conflict and human displacement; economic change and instability; discrimination practices; attitudes, beliefs and stereotypes; absence of targets, data and monitoring mechanisms; and resources shortages.

[8] Based upon studies referred to in "Gender and sustainable consumption: bridging policy gaps in the context of chapter 4, Agenda 21", report of the United Nations Environment and Development United Kingdom Committee (UNED-UK) submitted to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its seventh session, April 1999 (1999).

[9] See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

[10] "World Day for Water", United Nations Environment Programme and United Nations University news release, 22 March 1999.

[11] World Bank, *World Development Report, 1999/2000: Entering the 21st Century* (New York, Oxford University Press, 2000).

[12] Contribution of the Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

[13] Between 9 and 42 per cent of all households in all regions of the world are female-headed, for example.

42 per cent in Southern Africa, 36 per cent in the Caribbean and about 30 per cent in developed regions of the world (*The World's Women, 2000: Trends and Statistics*, chap. 2).

[14] Among the POPs are phalates, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), dioxin and at least 84 pesticides.

[15] Background paper prepared by WEDO and submitted to the Commission on Sustainable Development at its sixth session, New York, April 1998.

[16] The project title is Allies in Conservation Environmental Education with a Gender Perspective in the Tropical Rain Forest.

[17] See *Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994* (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994-7).

[18] General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex. As of 1 April 2000, the Convention had been ratified by 165 States parties; as of April 2000, 34 States had signed the Optional Protocol to the Convention (Division for the Advancement of Women of the United Nations Secretariat).

[19] General Assembly resolution 54/4, annex.

[20] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[21] In the Caribbean, the World Trade Organization decision in the banana dispute hit women, who constitute 70 per cent of the workforce in banana production, especially hard. The Caribbean countries had previously benefited from a specific agreement with the European Union (through the so-called preferential and differential treatment agreement). Now they lost market shares and, subsequently, employment and income; the women lost the basis for existence (press release, KULU — Women in Development, Qatar, 13 November 2001).

[22] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

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Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

Dialogue paper by youth*

International youth review of chapter 25 of Agenda 21: working with others to find a way forward

Introduction

1. Chapter 25 of Agenda 21[1] begins by stating: "The involvement of today's youth in environment and development decision-making and in the implementation of programmes is critical to the long-term success of Agenda 21." Never has it been more obvious that today's youth are committed to undertaking this responsibility. Youth commitment to and energy for sustainable development have been exemplified in the number of youth events that have taken place to assemble youth worldwide to create an understanding of the problems and an identification of solutions. These include, but are not limited to: the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Global Youth Retreat at the twenty-first session of the Governing Council in January-February 2001; the Borgholm Youth Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development in May 2001; the fourth session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System, held at Dakar in August 2001; the Baku Youth Earth Summit in September 2001; and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Youth Forum of the thirty-first session of the General Conference in October 2001. As such, the present review draws from the many existing youth declarations, recommendations and calls for action that resulted from recent global youth collaboration.

* Prepared by the Ad Hoc Working Group for the International Chapter 25 Youth Review, an international coalition of youth organizations from around the world. The views and opinions expressed do not necessarily represent those of the United Nations.

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2. Youth around the world have been asked by the secretariat of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2002, to collaborate and mobilize existing youth networks for the preparation of this dialogue paper. This work, along with the papers submitted by the eight other Agenda 21 major groups, aims to serve as an independent review of the progress made on major group chapters of Agenda 21. It is submitted with the understanding that it will be translated and distributed at the second session of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development in January 2002 and possibly made available at subsequent sessions.

3. Youth recognize that the dialogue papers submitted by major groups could likely be the only papers in the Summit's official documentation written by stakeholders outside the United Nations system. Youth are collectively thankful for this opportunity and sincerely hope that this review will be used in addressing the concerns of youth at the Johannesburg Summit.

4. Upon a request from the secretariat to submit this review, an "Ad Hoc Working Group for the International Chapter 25 Youth Review" was formed. The work was accomplished by youth from around the world working through drafting groups in six regions. These were South America, Africa, Asia and the Pacific, South-west Asia, Eastern Europe, and Western Europe and North America. Some of the youth involved represent larger youth constituencies and organizations, while others acted as individuals representing their own views. Many were participants at recent global youth events or part of an existing network, such as the UNEP Youth Advisory Council. The work was accomplished through Internet communication and teleconferences. A list of the youth involved is included in the annex.

5. By virtue of being called a dialogue paper, which generally implies two-way communication, youth also note that this paper acts as only an initial step in the collaboration in work among youth, the Bureau of the Summit, the Summit secretariat, Governments and other stakeholders in the process leading up to the Summit. We look forward to continuing the dialogue during the planned multi-stakeholder dialogues segments at the sessions of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee and through other opportunities, especially with regard to the creation of partnerships for the implementation of solutions.

6. The Ad Hoc Working Group has followed the secretariat's suggestion that this review identify the progress achieved with regard to the implementation of chapter 25 of Agenda 21, as well as examine future priorities. In so doing, the paper has been organized into four main sections. Three sections are directly related to the major issues for which action is outlined in chapter 25. These include access to education and awareness for sustainable development, access to information and participation in all levels of decision-making, and, lastly, youth employment. An additional section has been added to include those issues that are not included in chapter 25, but that must be addressed, as youth have a significant role to play in achieving progress regarding these concerns.

7. Each section follows a specific format. It begins with a description of the commitments made in Agenda 21 in relation to the issue under review. This is followed by a brief discussion about progress achieved and remaining concerns. The most important part of each section is the statement of suggested actions for the implementation of solutions.

8. The review is so structured because of three guiding notions that youth around the world have to transmit to all stakeholders involved in the preparations for the Summit in Johannesburg. This review is one effort to make known these key notions, which conveyed simply are: **urgency, partnerships, and implementation**. This principal message is simple and the Ad Hoc Working Group only hopes that it stays at the forefront of all processes related to the Johannesburg Summit. Youth remain committed to working with others to find a way forward.

I. Access to education and creating awareness for sustainable development

Education and awareness: commitments in Agenda 21

9. Chapter 25 of Agenda 21 has several sections that address education and its relationship to children and youth communities. At the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit),

held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, world leaders recognized the vital link between access to quality education and the health and well-being of the international youth community. They also recognized the need for capacity-building within youth communities in order to make positive progress towards global sustainable development efforts. Chapter 25 makes the following references to education and building awareness for sustainable development:

(a) "Each country, by the year 2000, should ensure that more than 50 per cent of its youth, gender balanced, are enrolled in or have access to appropriate secondary education or equivalent educational or vocational training programmes by increasing participation and access rates on an annual basis" (para. 25.5);

(b) "Governments, according to their strategies, should take measures to:

"Ensure access for all youth to all types of education, wherever appropriate, providing alternative learning structures, ensure that education reflects the economic and social needs of youth and incorporates the concepts of environmental awareness and sustainable development throughout the curricula; and expand vocational training, implementing innovative methods aimed at increasing practical skills, such as environmental scouting" (para. 25.9 (d));

(c) "Establish task forces that include youth and youth non-governmental organizations to develop educational and awareness programmes specifically targeted to the youth population on critical issues pertaining to youth. These task forces should use formal and non-formal educational methods to reach a maximum audience. National and local media, non-governmental organizations, businesses and other organizations should assist in these task forces" (para. 25.9 (f)).

10. Chapter 36 of Agenda 21 is entirely dedicated to promoting education, public awareness, and training for sustainable development. The chapter focuses on three programme areas: reorienting education towards sustainable development; increasing public awareness; and promoting training. For example, the following statement in chapter 36 relates specifically to youth:

"Relevant authorities should ensure that every school is assisted in designing environmental activity work plans, with the participation of students and staff. Schools should involve schoolchildren in local and regional studies on environmental health, including safe drinking water, sanitation and food and ecosystems and in relevant activities, linking these studies with services and research in national parks, wildlife reserves, ecological heritage sites etc." (para. 36.5 (e)).

Education and awareness: progress achieved and remaining concerns

11. The word "education" is mentioned over 600 times in Agenda 21, frequency of mention being second only to that of the word "government". The importance of education — both formal and non-formal — to making forward progress towards sustainable development is recognized in nearly every chapter. Yet many national Governments have yet to take concrete, decisive steps towards developing effective formal and non-formal education strategies for sustainable development.

12. UNESCO estimates that there are more than 130 million children in the world, the majority of them girls, who are not enrolled in school. Access is particularly difficult for ethnic minorities, children with disabilities and those with human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS). Education for sustainable development is lacking significantly. Youth believe that the commitments made in Agenda 21 on the issue of education have not been duly addressed since 1992. Some of the key issues of concern are the following:

- Access to and enrolment in basic formal education (equally for young females and males) is still very low in many countries;
- Quality of education is endangered in many countries because of insufficient social and financial appreciation of educators. Furthermore, members of the teaching community are not being given education for environment and sustainable development training when they are earning their teaching credentials;
- Educators and students do not have a guaranteed voice in international sustainable development discussions at the United Nations, as they are not a recognized major group;

- The formal education system is still quite traditional and rigid and does not allow for integration of knowledge, creative thinking and experiential learning — all of which are important characteristics of education for sustainability. There is a lack of integration of sustainable development issues into the formal education system;

- Nearly 10 years after the Rio conference, and nearly 30 years after the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm in June 1972, most of the people of the world still do not have a good understanding of sustainable development and why it is important; and many have never heard of Agenda 21;

- There is still limited scientific, sociological and economic information on what steps need to be taken to move the world towards sustainability, thus making education and awareness-building difficult;

- There is a lack of access to information on local, national and international sustainable development issues, which has led — in the youth community — to a lack of awareness and limited capacity-building for youth action;

- The capacity of youth organizations to develop "for youth by youth" formal and non-formal education for sustainability programmes is highly limited owing to lack of resources and lack of recognition of the importance of this type of programming;

- Much informal education of young people is coming from media, advertising and mass marketing sources, as these are where financial resources are focused. Non-profit agencies dedicated to education for sustainable development do not have the same resources or influence necessary to counter these often anti-sustainability messages that dominate many cultures. Privatization of education services is also becoming a concern in the current trade-dominated global culture.

Education and awareness: suggested actions and identification of implementation partners

13. The international youth community feels the following actions would greatly improve the implementation of educational and awareness-building commitments for sustainable development as set forth in Agenda 21.

14. We wish to add our support to the following actions as suggested through existing youth declarations:

- The International Student Festival in Trondheim, Norway (ISFiT) gathered 460 students from 106 countries in March 2001. Supported by students all over the world, the 2001 Trondheim Declaration states that the education community should be recognized as a fundamental force in implementing sustainable development and, as a consequence, should be established as a tenth major group. Youth continue to support this action. Partners for implementation include national and international educators and teaching associations as well as national delegations involved in the drafting and decision-making processes of new agreements at the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

- The Baku Youth Earth Treaty Action Statement, drafted at the Youth Earth Summit in Baku, Azerbaijan, in September 2001, recommends that curriculum related to sustainable development be accomplished in part through "learning by doing" projects. Youth request that students, teachers and administrators work together to ensure that learning through local, applied and active methods becomes a utilized tool for sustainability;

- The Ad Hoc Working Group calls for increased access to computer technology and the Internet for young people recognizing their importance as an educational and communication tool. Young people participating in the fourth session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System, held in Dakar, Senegal, in August 2001, recommend an increase in technical, technological, material and financial support through the establishment of an Education and Information and Communication Technologies

(ICT) Fund, which promotes North-South and South-South cooperation, national and regional networking, and government and private partnerships of ICT training centres. See Dakar Youth Empowerment Strategy (A/C.3/56/2, annex I), para. 18 (a);

- Youth need to be engaged in educational initiatives developed by Governments and other non-governmental organizations for young people. The importance of for-youth-by-youth education must be recognized by other organizations working on education for sustainable development. The UNESCO Youth Forum of the thirty-first session of the General Conference held in Paris, France, in October 2001 acknowledges the importance of peer education: young people training young people are an underestimated resource. It also calls for a better recognition of non-formal education, through closer cooperation between formal institutions for education and regional or national branches of youth non-governmental organizations.

15. Additionally, the Ad Hoc Working Group also proposes the following actions:

- Integrate principles of sustainable development into the formal educational system. Of particular importance is the integration of sustainability issues into the post-secondary education system, especially programmes like law, engineering, the sciences, business and economics, and sociology. Simply having programmes dedicated to environmental studies/science is not enough;
- Build collaborative international research centres (like a global centre of science and education for sustainable development) dedicated to research, and develop and test ideas addressing how the world might practically make progress towards sustainability;
- Enhance mass media to spread information about sustainable development issues, specifically ideas for how to make a positive change from the personal to the international scale, and to become an educational tool through channels such as interconnected radio, television and the Internet;
- Encourage the corporate sector and labour unions to include sustainable development in their education and training programmes;
- More scholarship and funding opportunities should be created for young people interested in pursuing research and academic work in the field of sustainable development;
- Focus on reducing the gender inequalities in education, including access to technological development;
- Recognize that education is a basic human right and that it is required if youth are to find meaningful employment and become engaged in decision-making in their futures. This requires support for young people who have missed the opportunity to be educated, such as street children, migrant populations and any other persons outside the formal education systems;
- Develop State-level "Education for sustainability" strategies to coordinate and consolidate efforts. Create a set of international indicators to measure progress made towards education for sustainable development that is more comprehensive than the current set of Commission on Sustainable Development indicators on this issue;
- Use the upcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development to identify sustainability in education as a priority theme for discussion and to develop a concrete and comprehensive international plan of action on sustainability in education.

II. Access to information and engagement in all levels of decision-making

Information and engagement: commitments in Agenda 21

16. Several of the objectives and actions described in chapter 25 make direct commitments to youth involvement and engagement in all levels of decision-making. If the involvement of today's youth is critical to the long-term success of Agenda 21, then clearly processes must be in place to promote meaningful dialogue between the youth community and all levels of government on its implementation. Chapter 25 addresses the issue of youth access to information and decision-making through the following commitments:

(a) "Each country should, in consultation with its youth communities, establish a process to promote dialogue between the youth community and Government at all levels and to establish mechanisms that permit youth access to information and provide them with the opportunity to present their perspectives on government decisions, including the implementation of Agenda 21" (para. 25.4);

(b) "Each country and the United Nations should support the promotion and creation of mechanisms to involve youth representation in all United Nations processes in order to influence those processes" (para. 25.7);

(c) "Governments, according to their strategies, should take measures to:

(i) "Establish procedures allowing for consultation and possible participation of youth of both genders, by 1993, in decision-making processes with regard to the environment, involving youth at the local, national and regional levels" (para. 25.9 (a));

(ii) "Promote dialogue with youth organizations regarding the drafting and evaluation of environment plans and programmes or questions on development" (para. 25.9 (b));

(iii) "Consider for incorporation into relevant policies the recommendations of international, regional and local youth conferences and other forums that offer youth perspectives on social and economic development and resource management" (para. 25.9 (c));

(iv) "Give support to programmes, projects, networks, national organizations and youth non-governmental organizations to examine the integration of programmes in relation to their project requirements, encouraging the involvement of youth in project identification, design, implementation and follow-up" (para. 25.9 (g));

(v) "Include youth representatives in their delegations to international meetings, in accordance with the relevant General Assembly resolutions adopted in 1968, 1977, 1985 and 1989" (para. 25.9 (h)).

Information and engagement: progress achieved and remaining concerns

17. During the last years, the number of participants and actions taken by youth, particularly in the environmental movement, have greatly increased. Many organizations, from international to local, have recognized the commitment of youth to sustainable development and incorporated the work of young people in their processes. Some excellent international examples include: the Youth Advisory Council of UNEP and its contributions at the twenty-first session of the Governing Council in February 2001, the six-year technical project of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to empower young people to become active partners in food security and the youth coordination unit of UNESCO which provides information on United Nations youth-related activities. At the national and local levels, some Governments have established youth round tables or young parliaments. However, these functions are often fulfilled as sporadic consultations that occur after key decisions and processes have already been determined. Often youth do not know how their input has been implemented, if at all, and what the outcome is of their work.

18. One of the easiest ways in which to evaluate the progress achieved with regard to youth participation in all levels of decision-making is simply to count how many government delegations at the second session of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee include youth representatives. At the organizational session of the Commission acting as the preparatory committee held in April-May 2001, there were no more than four or five countries that had kept their Agenda 21 commitment to include youth representatives in their delegations to international meetings. Unfortunately, this is indicative of youth engagement at regional and national levels of decision-making, as well as of the state of access to information that would enable youth to understand the process and benefit of their involvement.

19. Youth from around the world have voiced several similar concerns about their access to information and meaningful and substantive participation in decision-making. These include the following:

- There is a continuing lack of access to information that would empower youth to

understand the decision-making process and substantively contribute to policy formation;

- In the development of national strategies for sustainable development, young people were not included on advisory bodies or in other aspects of the decision-making process;

- There is an increasing reliance of Governments on web sites to act as the sole means of legitimate public consultation. In many countries, the only opportunity to contribute to policies on sustainable development and matters related to the World Summit on Sustainable Development is a web site portal that remains open for input for a period of a couple of weeks. While this is one form of consultation, it often exists without significant awareness among the public and cannot be viewed as an adequate strategy in itself to involve youth, or civil society as a whole;

- Youth engagement continues to be fragmented and sporadic at best. A bit of participation here and there will not serve any useful purpose and can be interpreted as involving youth only for the purpose of satisfying a requirement or as a symbolic act without real consequences or recognition of youth as partners in the development of solutions;

- Youth are often incorporated in the later stages of policy- and decision-making. Often, their work takes place in "parallel events" and is not integrated into official processes;

- Despite the fact that numerous international youth events have produced excellent recommendations for progress, there is little evidence that Governments have obtained or acknowledged this input from youth or explained how it will be used in the development of their policies;

- There persists a lack of government effort to establish, in consultation with youth, a process to promote dialogue between the youth community and government at all levels and to establish mechanisms that permit youth access to information and provide them with the opportunity to present their perspectives on government decisions, including the implementation of Agenda 21;

- There persists an absence of support to projects, networks and national youth non-governmental organizations so as to involve youth in project identification, design, implementation and follow-up.

Information and engagement: suggested actions and identification of implementation partners

20. Youth feel the following actions would help to achieve the commitments to youth access to information and engagement in the decision-making process, as set forth in Agenda 21:

- Recognize that youth currently have insufficient access to information to understand the context of decision-making. Unfortunately, this state of affairs is often interpreted as stemming from a lack of political will to involve youth in policy formation and implementation;

- Undertake a systematic review of the channels of information dissemination and management frameworks. Assist in the development of effective communication and information sharing mechanisms, designed in conjunction with youth, for access and transfer of knowledge;

- Acknowledge the current existing channels of information exchange and integrate them into the formal information dissemination process;

- Continue to facilitate the interactions and sharing of information between major Agenda 21 groups and other organizations involved in the preparations for the Summit;

- Improve the information given to young people in order to enable them to participate effectively in the design, implementation and evaluation of policies and programmes;

- Facilitate and support the exchange of information of young people between countries. Sharing of information between young people from industrialized countries and those from developing countries is an effective way to ensure understanding of the world situation with regard to sustainable development and will allow youth to better devise recommendations;

- Offer resources and support for young people to become aware of and learn about the issues related to the Summit. Support "for-youth-by-

youth" awareness-raising and information distribution initiatives to be undertaken;

- Support the Dakar Youth Empowerment Strategy, which recommends that national Governments design and implement programmes that can build the institutional capacity of youth organizations (see A/C.3/56/2, annex I, para. 54). The Ad Hoc Working Group supports the creation of independent and democratic local and national youth councils, as well as regional platforms where they do not exist;
- Include youth representatives, selected by youth in an open and democratic manner, in government delegations at all international and regional preparatory conferences for the Summit;
- Call upon the United Nations Youth Unit, with the assistance of youth organizations working in this area, to serve as a clearing house for information for youth organizations for these youth representatives;
- Support the Dakar recommendation that there be increased representation of youth within the United Nations Youth Unit itself through a system of placements of members of youth organizations, as well as increased status for the Youth Unit within the United Nations system to coordinate all youth participation at the United Nations (para. 52);
- Ultimately the Ad Hoc Working Group calls upon Governments, the United Nations and civil society organizations to support young people in their endeavours to obtain resources for extensive and comprehensive youth empowerment programmes.

III. Youth employment

Youth employment: commitments in Agenda 21

21. Chapter 25 of Agenda 21 has several sections that address the important relationship between youth employment and sustainable development. Direct commitments in chapter 25 related to youth employment include the following:

(a) "Each country should undertake initiatives aimed at reducing current levels of youth unemployment, particularly where they are disproportionately high in comparison to the overall unemployment rate" (para. 25.6);

(b) "Governments, according to their strategies, should take measures to:

"In cooperation with relevant ministries and organizations, including representatives of youth, develop and implement strategies for creating alternative employment opportunities and provide required training to young men and women" (para. 25.9 (e)).

Youth employment: progress achieved and remaining concerns

22. Although the experiences of young people in industrialized and developing countries are very different, they share common concerns about their future when it comes to finding decent and meaningful employment. With many of the world's major economies slowing in growth, this is an increasing concern. The Secretary-General sums up the situation best when he states that "youth make up more than 40 per cent of the world's total unemployed. There are an estimated 66 million unemployed young people in the world today — an increase of nearly 10 million since 1965" (July 2001).

23. Young people wish to acknowledge the current efforts under way to improve youth employment. Heads of State and Government resolved to address the challenge of youth employment in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[2] by agreeing to "develop and implement strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work" (see para. 20). The Ad Hoc Working Group applauds the Youth Employment Network, which draws its mandate from the Millennium Assembly of the United Nations, and brings together a broad range of high- and technical-level partners with the United Nations, the World Bank and the International Labour Office as its joint secretariat. It is exactly this type of action — a partnership that brings together creative leaders in industry, civil society, government and international organizations to solve a difficult issue — that should serve as a model for creating solutions for change at the Summit.

24. In brief, youth around the world continue to share the following concerns regarding youth employment:

- Underemployment is a major concern, particularly as it relates to the engagement of more and more young people in the informal sector. This sector is problematic because it is typically characterized by few benefits, low remuneration, poor health and safety standards, no job protection and little security for the future;
- There remains a significant gender gap in relation to youth employment. Young women are often excluded from vocational recruitment and training and face continuing cultural factors that proscribe their employment choices. This limits young women with respect to accessing higher-paying and more rewarding occupations;
- There is a gap between the rapid pace of change that creates demand for new skills and the provision of training and support for lifelong learning. There is a growing number of young people who are graduating and yet are unable to obtain work despite severe skill shortages. There is a sense of hopelessness, particularly among those who feel unable to access the knowledge economy and network society based on new ICT technologies;
- There is a lack of support, in terms of apprenticeships and mentoring programmes, as well as legal and financial guidance, for youth wishing to engage in entrepreneurship or creating small enterprises. There is an undervaluation of the employment prospects within this sector of the economy;
- There is a lack of collaboration to work with youth to address their unemployment concerns, often accompanied by the view that, instead of being partners for development, youth are simply a target group for which employment must be found.

Youth employment: suggested actions and identification of implementation partners

25. Youth suggest the following specific actions to be undertaken in partnership with other stakeholders to further the achievement of the objectives outlined in chapter 25 with regard to youth employment:

- Draw up national action plans on youth employment as a matter of priority, as encouraged in the United Nations Millennium Declaration. Mobilize political commitment and practical action to rapidly increase employment opportunities for youth. The time has come to translate political commitments of national leaders into public policies;
- Support the recommendations concerning employment made in the Dakar Youth Empowerment Strategy by young people participating in the fourth session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System. Specifically, the Ad Hoc Working Group applauds the call for the more effective promotion of entrepreneurship among young women and men by provision of better information on market opportunities, training in business, access to capital, mentoring by qualified people and other business support activities;
- Promote programmes for both basic education and retraining needs that include young women, especially in the area of science and technology. We especially support the recommendations made by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in its issues paper entitled "Creating Decent Work for Young People", such as providing an educational environment with childcare support, drawing on young women as trainers to put female trainees more at ease, and creating support groups and professional networks for women in training programmes, to name a few;
- Create willingness among decision makers to learn from more successful countries. Youth should be included in the identification, promotion and dissemination of these best practices;
- Recognize potential solutions for the informal sector, such as encouraging initiatives in the informal sector to become small enterprises that generate employment. Create access to and support for administrative and regulatory procedures for business registration;
- Apply support to the Youth Employment Summit and facilitate the participation of youth from

various countries in this event. The Youth Employment Summit will take place in Alexandria, Egypt, in September 2002, very soon after the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and will be an excellent forum for transmitting innovative policies and practices and initiating committed action;

- Use the World Summit on Sustainable Development to create an important impetus to mobilize political commitment and practical action to immediately increase employment opportunities for youth, especially with respect to renewing commitment for the Youth Employment Network;
- Recognize that young people are an asset in building economies and that the current generation of youth is more educated and trained than ever.

IV. Missing concerns from chapter 25 that are important to youth

Missing concerns from Chapter 25: commitments in Agenda 21

26. Beyond the issues of education, raising awareness for sustainable development, access to information, participation in all levels of decision-making and employment, chapter 25 makes the following important commitments regarding youth:

(a) "Each country should combat human rights abuses against young people, particularly young women and girls, and should consider providing all youth with legal protection, skills, opportunities and the support necessary for them to fulfil their personal, economic and social aspirations and potentials" (para. 25.8);

(b) "Governments, according to their strategies, should take measures to:

"Give support to programmes, projects, networks, national organizations and youth non-governmental organizations to examine the integration of programmes in relation to their project requirements, encouraging the involvement of youth in project identification, design, implementation and follow-up" (para. 25.9 (g)).

27. These statements are very vague, making it quite difficult to access progress in the achievement of the commitments they embody. This being the case, youth have identified some of the key issues that need to be improved if indeed they are "to fulfil their personal, economic and social aspirations and potentials". These issues must be specifically addressed in relation to youth, either by virtue of the fact that youth are linked to the causes of the issues or by virtue of the fact that youth are at the centre of coping with the effects of these issues. This is reiterated in section 25.2 of Agenda 21 when it is noted that youth have the capacity to mobilize support, as well as to add unique perspectives that need to be taken into account. It is clear that any renewed commitment or action undertaken to address these issues must include the meaningful involvement of youth. By the same token, in order to combat the continued deterioration of the status of youth worldwide, these issues must be addressed. The specific topics chosen for discussion in this review include:

- HIV/AIDS;
- Unsustainable consumption and lifestyles;
- War, conflicts and security;
- Trade and strategies for poverty elimination;
- Climate change.

28. As with the other sections of this review, the concerns of youth relating to each of these issues will be briefly stated, followed by two or three specific recommendations that can form the basis of a continued discussion on action and implementation of solutions.

Missing concerns from chapter 25: remaining concerns, suggested actions and possible partners

HIV/AIDS

29. HIV/AIDS is decimating the current generation of youth. The fourth session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System, in its statement on HIV/AIDS (A/C.3/56/2, annex II, paras. 1-2), declared the issue to be the greatest threat to the health and security of youth today, as more than half of all new HIV/AIDS deaths occur in people under age 24. This crisis is ravaging the current generation of youth in

Africa and aborting its gains in sustainable development. It is also an increasingly deadly threat to youth on all other continents. For this reason, actions put forth through the World Summit on Sustainable Development must:

- Remove barriers to youth in respect of prevention, including increasing the culturally appropriate spread of information, medical supplies and care to combat the transmission of the disease;
- Implement the considerations identified in the proliferation of youth documents about AIDS including, but not limited to, the Youth Caucus position paper submitted to the twenty-sixth special session of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS, held in June 2001; the 2001 Asia-Pacific Youth Declaration; youth input at the 2000 African Development Forum; and the 2001 Dakar World Youth Forum Empowerment Strategy;
- Call upon all countries to increase financial resources for HIV/AIDS to a level that is proportionate to the gravity of the pandemic. Contributions to the Global AIDS and Health Fund must be increased to the levels recommended by the Secretary-General. Governments and multilateral aid institutions must be convinced that there can be no greater reason to forgive debt to the least developed countries than the need for funding to be directed towards addressing the HIV/AIDS crisis.

Unsustainable consumption and lifestyles

30. If everyone in the world were to consume resources like the average European or North American, it is estimated that we would need another six planets to provide the necessary resources. Combine this sobering image with the fact that a large proportion of today's commercial campaigns, movies, music and other forms of advertising target young people as key consumers of goods, and the importance of including youth in the efforts to achieve sustainable consumption is obvious. Thankfully, many young people have begun adopting more environmentally friendly and ethically sound consumption practices. However, this change in young people's practices is hardly widespread and needs to be addressed through the following actions:

- Media and mass advertising must become allies in changing patterns of over-consumption, especially in the developed world. The message that sustainable consumption is about finding a balance between our rights as consumers and our responsibilities as citizens to choose a lifestyle that limits negative environmental impacts and respects the right of all people to live and work in safe and healthy conditions, must be widespread;
- Governments must implement policy tools that encourage sustainable lifestyles. These include such tools as environmental laws, removal of subsidies for polluting production processes, green taxes, and public eco-campaigns;
- In 2001, UNEP and UNESCO undertook a joint research project on Youth and Sustainable Consumption called "Is the Future Yours?" Such studies should be expanded upon and used to establish partnerships with other stakeholders for the purpose of devising appropriate public policies to promote sustainable consumption patterns.

War, conflicts and security

31. There is no denying that, in the face of war and conflict, and the refugee and humanitarian crises that inevitably ensue, youth are the most vulnerable and devastatingly ill-fated. Youth are also well aware that the founding Charter of the United Nations begins with the words "We the peoples of the United Nations determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war ...".

32. Youth are currently watching in horror at the events taking place in the world around them. Please take to heart the following recommendations:

- Use the peaceful mechanisms of the United Nations to discuss challenges and disagreements. Make the relevant connections between the wars taking place in the world and the current paradigm of development that exploits and discriminates. Know that youth do not understand any justification for the killing of innocent people;
- Divert the current military expenditure that takes place around the world to initiatives and tools that support sustainable development. Youth value that to which they devote the most resources.

Currently, it appears as though the Governments of the world valued war over development;

- Strengthen control over the trafficking and circulation of weapons and its financial enabler, the drug trade. Target intolerance, illiteracy, discrimination and the interference of outside economic and financial interests in developing countries as important sources of conflicts.

Trade and strategies for poverty elimination

33. Over 1 billion people of the world population live in poverty, many of them youth. The weakest bear most of the burdens of poverty. The effects of poverty are killing children in the thousands every day. Three quarters of poor youth live in rural areas facing malnutrition every day. The megacities are filled with youth who live on the street, often most affected by the harmful, unhealthy environment filled with drugs, violence and sexual abuse. They live with no hope for a decent life. Youth recognize that poverty eradication is the first step towards sustainability.

34. The process of globalization since the Rio Conference in 1992 has created many opportunities, but has also served to deepen and entrench poverty, and marginalization of peoples and nations, as well as accelerate ecological disintegration to the benefit of the Northern nations. Youth recognize the weakening of Governments together with the increasing influence of transnational corporations.

35. Youth realize that trade has an important role to play in tackling poverty, however many youth have been negatively affected by the current trade liberalization and expansion agenda, with little focus on actual local needs. Specific examples of where local needs are at odds with international trade agreements would include access to essential medicines and indigenous knowledge and the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights[3] or trade policies on agriculture that compromise local food security.

36. As such, youth wish to make the following recommendations for addressing this issue at the Summit:

- Immediate cancellation of the external debt of developing countries so as to allow these countries to mobilize their own resources for work towards sustainable development. Nations at the Summit should act in solidarity and call upon the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank to take immediate steps towards this step of debt cancellation;

- Participation of the World Trade Organization, the World Bank and IMF in Summit preparations with the objective of placing poverty reduction squarely at the centre of their mandates, bringing it in line with development objectives being pursued by United Nations agencies, as outlined in Agenda 21 and the United Nations Millennium Declaration;

- The Summit needs to create an impetus for reshaping trade agreements to become instruments for achieving greater social and economic development that stress the need to accommodate local ownership of poverty reduction strategies;

- Resetting the purpose and framework of world trade rules and helping to end the relentless pressure on the developing world to take on new trade liberalization commitments at this time.

Climate change

37. Climate change is viewed as a threat not only to youth, but to all life on Earth. The youth community is disappointed at the lack of commitment and international cooperation on this important issue in the recent past. Given that environmental concerns are integral to issues of sustainable development, youth call for the Summit to address this issue by:

- Acknowledging that youth in several countries around the world in the last year have undertaken an initiative called the Bet, wherein they bet their governments that youth could reduce their carbon emissions by 8 per cent. If youth can accomplish this with limited resources, then so can Governments. Youth call upon the Summit to recognize that this is a matter of political will and commitment;

- Ratifying the Kyoto Protocol[4] to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,[5] which is still not a sufficient solution in itself, but at least an advance in our progress with respect to the issue of climate change;

- Phasing out the use of unsustainable energy sources, such as nuclear power and fossil fuels.

The time has come to support alternative sources of energy, such as solar power and wind, through concrete policy initiatives.

V. Concluding remarks

38. The written submission of youth at the South-East Asia Subregional Preparatory Committee meeting held from 17 to 19 October 2001 begins by describing the nature of the sector of youth and its unique role in sustainable development. It states that "the value of youth involvement in sustainable development as embodied in chapter 25 of Agenda 21 is premised on the nature of the sector as the only 'transitional sector' among the major stakeholders. By 'transitional' we mean that after the youthful experience (age group 15-24 in United Nations standards), all young people eventually graduate to 'join' the main sector that they eventually choose to be part of as adult members of their respective societies. As such, the youth sector is valuable to sustainable development as youth ensure sustainability of leadership and constituency to move Agenda 21 to realization".

39. The concerns and recommendations submitted in this dialogue paper reflect the above-stated observation. Youth from around the world have worked together within a limited time frame and with minimal resources to present the ideas of the Ad Hoc Working Group for this review of chapter 25 of Agenda 21. We have examined the issues of access to education and creating awareness for sustainable development, access to information and participation in all levels of decision-making, and, lastly, youth employment. Each are major themes found within chapter 25. The final section entitled "Missing concerns" is included in order to address important concerns for youth and sustainable development that were excluded from chapter 25.

40. As much as possible, the Ad Hoc Working Group has tried to link youth's concerns in these areas to concrete actions and suggested partnerships for implementation. This remains in line with our earlier aspiration, to be stated time and time again, in the hope that it remains at the forefront of all those involved in preparations for the Summit. It is simply that the Summit process and results must imply:

Urgency, partnership, and implementation

41. The Ad Hoc Working Group would also like to restate the point made in the introduction that this dialogue paper is seen by youth as an initial step in its work with others for Summit preparations. As a dialogue paper, it is critical that the dialogue continue — between youth and Governments, between youth and the organizing Bureau of the Summit, between youth and various United Nations agencies, between youth and other Agenda 21 major groups, and between youth and all other stakeholders in sustainable development. Ultimately, this review of chapter 25 is one of many indications that youth are committed to working with others through multiple partnerships to raising the awareness of the Summit, devise solutions and policies for progress, and, most importantly, ensuring that key results become implemented.

Notes

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[2] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[3] See *Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994* (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994-7).

[4] FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.3, annex.

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

Annex

Youth and youth groups participating in the international chapter 25 review

Members of the following organizations around the world came together to form the "Ad Hoc Working Group for the International Youth Review of Chapter 25" and participated in the drafting of the dialogue paper:

Africa

- Yvonne Khamati, World Youth Organization on Climate Change (WYOCC), Kenya
- Philip Osano, EcoNews Africa, Borgholm Youth Conference Co-Chair, Kenya
- Tamoifo Nkom Marie, UNEP youth adviser, Association Jeunesse Verte du Cameroon, Cameroon
- Shalala Oliver Sepiso, University of Zambia, UNEP youth adviser
- Zwuzi Aloysius, global youth reporter at the Borgholm Youth Conference
- Goldius Russell Baloyi, student at University of South Africa, involvement with Midrand Eco-City and Afribike, South Africa
- Appiah-Kubi Aaron, University of Ghana, Ghana

South America

- Alexandro Callejas, Mexican Youth Environmental Network (RAJ), Mexico
- Linabel Segovia Sarlat, UNEP youth adviser, Mexico
- Adriana Valenzuela, Directora Juvenil Nacional, Corporación Grupo Tayrona, UNEP youth adviser, Colombia
- Cynthia Dabul, Professional Council of Environmental Analysts of the Republic of Argentina, Argentina
- Ursula Carrascal, VIDA Instituto para la Protección del Medio Ambiente y miembro asociado del Consejo de Asesoramiento de la Juventud de la Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente (PNUMA) y del Comité Ambiental Juvenil del Perú, Peru

Asia and the Pacific

- Roy Cabonegro, Secretary-General, YSDA-Pilipinas (Youth for Sustainable Development Assembly, Philippines)
- Loraine Gatlabayan and Anthony Ambahan, YSDA-Pilipinas (Youth for Sustainable Development Assembly, Philippines)
- Afifa Raihana, UNEP youth adviser, Striving Towards Environmental Protection (Non-Governmental Organization), Bangladesh
- Ankur Ankas for the NGO Youth Working for the Environment, India
- Swati Raut, currently at the Technology and Human Development Programme, Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia), India
- Rasangi Prematilaka, Mandate the Future, Sri Lanka
- Rieko Kubota, UNEP youth adviser, Japan

South-west Asia

- Heba El Naggar, Arab Office for Youth and Environment (AOYE), Non-Governmental Organization, Egypt
- Maan Dagher, Friends of Tannourine Cedars, Lebanon
- Laila Rastegar, Co-Secretary of International Affairs, Green Front of Iran, Islamic Republic of Iran

Eastern Europe

- Sayana Bartanova, Non-Governmental Organization — For Sustainable Development, Coordinator of "Baikal School Leaders of Sustainable Development", Russian Federation

- Tomislav Tomasevic, Green Action/Friends of the Earth, Croatia; National Co-ordinator for South-East European Youth Network, Croatia
- Monika Kovacova, Daphne — Institute for Applied Ecology, Slovakia
- Miroslav Andrt, Czechoslovakia
- Tsvetan Ivanov Spassov, UNEP youth adviser, Bulgaria

Western Europe and North America

- Anna Ripoll and Carlos-Luis Pérez Aguirre, Platform for Spanish Youth Review — Spanish Youth Council, Spain
- Jonas Meckling and Ina Epkenhans, Futur X — Society for Intergenerational Equity, Germany
- Frank Mulder and Merel Bierkens, Netherlands youth representative to sessions of the Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee, Netherlands
- Marte Lerberg Kopstad, International Student Festival in Trondheim, 2001 (ISFiT), Norway
- Lindsay Cole, Sierra Youth Coalition and Canadian Youth Summit Team, Canada
- Clarisse Kehler Siebert and Megan Bradley, Canadian Youth Summit Team, Canada
- Heidi Karst, currently Project Coordinator for the MARE Network in the Mediterranean region, Canada
- Kristin Casper, United States Youth Rio+10 Planning Group, United States of America
- Leif Holmberg, JO02 Network of the Swedish Youth Council, co-facilitator of the Ad Hoc Working Group for the International Chapter 25 Youth Review
- Julie Larsen, United Nations Association in Canada, co-facilitator of the Ad Hoc Working Group for the International Chapter 25 Youth Review